

CITY OF OGLETHORPE  
OGLETHORPE CITY HALL  
115 CHATHAM STREET  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
AUGUST 7TH, 2025 – 6:00PM

Call to order: 6:00PM

**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 – will email at the end of the Month. – Chief gave overview of handout. Ms. Cindy and chief have been working in the evidence room for two days doing a proper inventory and logging everything. Completed an audit for the police department Confiscated Fund acct and found discrepancies from Chief Hart term with a couple of checks as well as some bank issues. Some of the bank issues have been cleared up, but will continue to work on the remainder. Looking to move the account to a different bank as not happy with the service receiving currently. (more discussion ensued).
- 3) Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month
- 4) Water/Sewer - HWR Jeff Harrison – discussed the 25HP Myers Pump that burnt up at the prison lift station quote from CC&A of \$10,880.55 to rebuild using Splost funding. Discussed SCADA system (see under New Business). Questioned sewage of new business on Hwy 26 – Flint River Packers. After long discussion of what ifs..... CM Beckum advised that they would not be using city sewage, only water and that their facility will be audited and overseen by USDA standards and EPD for the waste and retention pond. Discussed that when the permit is requested from the county, maybe something protecting the city; however their waste will not come to the city waste water plant. CM Beckum will check back with them to verify not planning to hook up to the city sewer line.
- 5) Blue Tag Tree Service – Damin Hubbard - absent
- 6) Mahone Quality Lawn Care – Rashad Mahone emailed report and was present.
- 7) Fire Department – report emailed monthly – Chief Childs

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

- 1) Mayor Daniels – Intern/Partnership with FVSU- just shadowing and hours turned in to FVSU and they will pay them. This would be a good thing for public relations as well as giving students a preview of working in local government roles. Possibly shadowing city clerk in the utilities area, library, and municipal court clerk.
- 2) Human Resources/Finance – CM Harrison and CM Moore have been working on next year’s budgets for their departments – will discuss with city clerk and accountant.
- 3) Public Safety – CM Moore – Fire truck had a broken windshield, received quote for less than \$350 and city clerk had it taken care of. Been working with Chief Childs to get a schedule set up flushing fire hydrants. We have numbers and locations and getting it digitized. They will be sent out to everyone when finished. Someone is painting the fire

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hydrants and they need to stop because it makes it difficult to flush as it's hardening around the seals.

- 4) Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison – Has had Mr. Smith completing an Equipment Inventory. What's working, what's not, what to keep, and what to decommission and put up for auction. The truck has air now and had an oil change. The tractor needs air and breaks. Doesn't want rigged up equipment; wants it working correctly. He's been cleaning up the trailer over at the water pond so that they will have somewhere to put things and take breaks or have a meeting. He has requested some cold patch and have it put under the shed so that it doesn't get hard like the pile we already have. He's been helping cut also as this is the grass season and it gets out of hand.
- CM Moore spoke with a company that buys cemeteries to see if there was any potential interest in the city cemetery. It's just an idea and for years to come, it will save the city money from the maintenance we are responsible for. A lot of cities are getting out of the cemetery business and selling them off to companies like Dignity. I was just curious to see if there was any interest and there was. I didn't want to go any further until I spoke with all of you to see what your thoughts were. We have an additional lot that was allocated years ago and we never used it. We pay quite a bit to have the cemetery maintained. I would give them all of the information for the available spots and they would give us a proposal of taking over ownership of the cemetery and additional lots. They would maintain it and sell the plots. They handle updates, marketing, etc. They would keep up with everything. No longer the cities responsibility. The first thing they do is an upgrade and make it look up to their standards. When they come up with a good proposal, they would come to council and present and make the city an offer. Council was in favor of allowing CM Moore to pursue proposal and review again at later date.
  - Mayor also advised to remind Mr. Smith to get the garbage cans from the back of the cemetery up to the front so that the garbage company can empty the trash.
- 5) Planning & Recreation – CM Woodard gave out hand out for Pickle Ball with quote. She asked if Mr. Smith could come to the Tennis Courts and clean down the vines and clean up trash. Trying to get it cleared up so that we can move forward. CM Moore has been working with CM Woodard also and has quote to have work done on the Pickle Ball / Tennis Courts. Also reaching out to see if a fence company might be willing to donate the little bit of fencing and putting up that we need if we allow them to put a sign up advertising for them on the fence. Also feels that we should be able to have a budget for parks and recreation and using general fund money. They will just have to figure out how to move money around to be able to budget there. City Clerk reminded them that normally that money comes from T-Splost. Also looking for new revenue sources. Have had a water rate review and will discuss later.
- \*Fire service fee discussion. \$5 per month fee added to the utility bill that will go in an account specifically for Fire Dept needs. Our fire truck is not going to be around a couple more years. We would have to get a GEFA loan. We will be doing a water rate recalibration and the citizens should receive a \$6-\$9 relief for water, so this will just balance out. No bill will actually go up. I would like to keep the millage rate the same this year and not change it if possible.

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\* Franchis Fee review – CM Moore contacted the state as he doesn't feel that we are getting out fair share of Franchise fees for all of these companies using our easements. He will create a proposal and hopes to increase our fees 100-150 percent. I would like to see this all before 2025 ends. (more discussion ensued)

- 6) Downtown Development Authority – CM Moore nothing
- 7) Grants Committee – CM Moore/CM Harrison received donations for Veteran's Day and already requested monies for City's Week 2026. The Mayor advised Ms. Debra Thomas' house has been built and Ms. Brenda's house has been fixed using CDBG Funding.
- 8) Connectivity Committee - CM Beckum – The Mexican Restaurant is just waiting on Health Dept and Ham and Bacon planned to open soon.
- 9) Building Maintenance Committee – CM Mahone nothing

### **New Business:**

- 1) SCADA system for Oglethorpe and the prison quote – HWR Jeff Harrison led discussion with this system that would send him/his company/mayor/council an alert if something happened within our city water system and tanks decreased to a level below the “set level” or power outage, etc. This would save time and possibly equipment issues. The prison is very interested in having this to help keep inmates from getting off their schedules – which causes behavioral issues, ie rioting/chaos. The cost is @ \$34K and then @ \$2500 a year for the software. This app can be downloaded onto smart phones. Mr. Harrison will reach out to prison to see if they might consider helping to offset the costs. (more discussion ensued) Will discuss again next session.
- 2) Fire Dept Ordinance – CM Moore read over the Proposed Ordinance and discussed – CM Mahone is still concerned about hydrants working or being flushed on a schedule. Mayor Daniels advised that this could all be taken care of prior to the next meeting (August 28<sup>th</sup>)
- 3) Part-Time Employee (Smith) from salary to hourly – Mayor Daniels made statement and will vote on in Regular Session.

### **Old Business:**

- 1) Waste Water Plant – Tim Ingram – The state hired RSM to help them facilitate payments for this project. This has been a hold up. The payment is about 60 days out now. I had to re-do the change order for the reduction from the original bid of \$11.9M down to around \$6M. Needs mayor to sign tonight. Coggins has been putting us off as they are trying to finish up previous projects. The rain has cost them some time as well. I will give them a call and advise that we expect to see them here this month or it's going to be a problem. Not being paid is part of the issue I think, but also the other projects trying to complete. Council not real happy about that. Mr. Harrison advised that it's in the contract that if they don't finish by deadline – they don't get more payment for taking longer. Tim advised the state has a set deadline of October 31, 2026 and if they go beyond that day there won't be any money to pay them. They understand and I don't think they will have an issue getting it done, but they need to come on. Mayor Daniels asked Tim to copy him on the communication with Coggins so as to keep the city updated. Mr. Harrison also believes that they are trying to complete the other projects so that once they get to Oglethorpe – they will be here for a long while to get completed. Tim also advised on quotes for the other city projects. From Reeves Construction – Anna Drive issues, Clifton Bradley issues, Sumter/Cuyler issues, etc. Quotes are attached.

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Need to have the county go ahead and start clearing the brush from sides of May Road subdivision as well as GDOT come do the work they said they would on HWY 49 entering May Road. Concern about the standing water in the May Road area as until that is fixed.... Anything done will not last. (more discussion ensued). CM Moore will reach out to Ms. Roselyn (county manager) again to see if the county would go ahead and start clearing sides of the roads in that area. County may be able to clear the ditch. Need to ask them for asphalt milling also (2-3) truck loads.

**Other Business:**

1. CM Harrison wanted to thank everyone who helped with the Back to School Drive. Collective effort (special thank you to CM Moore)

**Public Comments:**

**Adjourn:** 8:20 PM Mayor Daniels

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