CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 29, 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 (sends report prior to regular council meeting) / Interim Chief Finch – Chief Finch updated about Buck Creek Bypass and Flock Cameras on Asbury Road and police cars. Gave monthly report. Dr. Seuss Week is next week.
3. Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month. Mayor spoke with Ms. Glenda and she has some ideas for Ga Cities Week and I will relay them to you all at a later date.
4. Water/Sewer/Streets, HWR Jeff Harrison – Gave monthly report. Anna Drive – pre-con meeting was Tuesday. March 18th should be start date. Different bids to possibly save money. I advised Tim Ingram that I would go with pre-cast concrete as I don’t know anything about the aluminum. We moved the water main over as well. Added some valves for isolation. CM Harrison – Any final amount from Attorney Coogle for amounts? Jeff – you all would need to talk to them about that. (conversation ensued). There is a house at Mill St that is sitting about 5ft from a catch basin behind the house. Cole has gone down through there and every catch basin behind those houses are starting to wash in. I don’t know how to fix that other than digging up and concreting those pipes in. It’s caused by these big, heavy rains. Causes holes around the pipes. CM Beckum – Would you recommend that we get Tim Ingram and Associates down here to look at it? There should already be some plans around that area. Where city hall is used to be a drainage as well. Tim should be aware of that area and be able to help. (conversation ensued). CM Mahone – I was going to ask about that on Asbury. Jeff – Yes, the main that’s right there in front of Dew Drop is about 3 foot off the edge of the sidewalk. We dug about 20 ft of it up. Tim said that DOT did that main at Asbury. My youngest son actually went in the man hole with a flash light. In the middle of the highway there is a junction box and said water was running in there the whole time. Mayor Daniels – Ms. Jones attached a notice of an increase. Would you like to discuss that? Jeff – Yes. We can or we can wait as it’s a personnel issue. CM Harrison – We should probably go into Executive Session. Mayor Daniels – Ok, we will move on to number 5.
5. Fire Department – report emailed monthly – Chief Childs

**Council/Committee Reports:**

1. Mayor Daniels – Mayor Reading Club to start during Ga Cities Week.
2. Human Resources/Finance – CM Harrison/CM Woodard – CM Harrison – nothing other than discussion of the contract.
3. Public Safety – CM Mahone – nothing at this time – need to discuss our contract with Montezuma as it expires in April.
4. Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison for the most part we’ve already heard. Also thank you Mayor for allowing me to go to the RVRC monthly meeting. They are aware of public transportation issues in rural Georgia. They’ve put together a committee to come up with a comprehensive plan. A survey that can be completed. We will send it out to everyone in Oglethorpe to give input on what is wanted. I would love to see a transit system in place to carry people from each city to city in our county. A representative from the Federal Reserve present as well who would like to come to one of our meetings to speak.
5. Planning & Recreation – Mayor Daniels – Sometimes people get the wagon before the horse sometimes. Application should be turned in this week for the Easter Egg Hunt. Both events will be good. CM Harrison – Oglethorpe week will be the 21-27 and we can start planning next week. I had someone interested in renting part of our Business Center long term. We know there’s some little things that need to be done, but we want to make that revenue. (conversation ensued). CM Harrison – Next trash pick-up date March 22, 2024 if approved by Chief Peters. CM Mahone – What about the backhoe? They called me last time they were out picking up and asked about it. Jeff – It has some break issues. I talked to Ms. Jill and get it sent somewhere. There’s also a slow leak on the back tire, but it doesn’t have breaks. So, when you get it going, you have to drop the bucket. CM Mahone – So during this time frame, who’s been servicing it? Jeff – We change the plugs, etc. CM Mahone – What I’m getting at is who been fixing the breaks? Jeff – A guy over here in Montezuma, Dorsey’s – he can fix it. He will have to come pick it up. CM Harrison – I will take ownership of that. Jeff – It will stop, but you have to you know drop that bucket. Everybody – no, no, no. CM Mahone – Could we have someone here to assist them when they come pick up? Jeff – My guys, that’s not a problem. Just give us a heads up and if in the morning time, we can have someone here to run the backhoe. (conversation ensued).

**New Business:**

1) Surplus List – CM Beckum – We haven’t made a whole lot of progress on the list as I just asked Cole to help with a list this week. But we know as long as the IRS issue is still here, we can’t sale anything. After talking

with Melissa we hope to have possibly taken care of in the next 90 days, so not too soon to start on a list. Hope to have a list for the next work session to review. There’s a bucket truck that we should get back to running

for the Christmas Décor, etc. But other items out there need to be gone. Crank them up and try to determine the condition of them. (conversation ensued).

2) Melvin Moore appointment – Mayor Daniels – We had a council member resign and I had a chance to meet with Mr. Moore a couple of times and I think he’s knowledgeable and resourceful and I’m looking to appoint

Mr. Moore next week at the meeting. We haven’t discussed, so. CM Harrison – I’ve talked to him a couple of times and he has some great ideas. I’m not opposed to him. CM Beckum – The first question I would ask as

he ran against you in the last election, and I’ve not seen or heard any of that, but sometimes there can be a little bit of hard feelings. If you don’t have any objections to it, then I don’t. Mayor Daniels – I don’t. I talked to

him the same night. I’m not in this about my feelings, I’m about was good for Oglethorpe. I think he can help us thrive. CM Beckum – The other thing is, every once in a while, sometimes when we get new-comers it’s

interesting to get viewpoints from them as well, so I have no objection to it.

3) Sign for streets – Mayor Daniels – we have some stop signs that are bent over and some missing signs. I’ve talked with Ms. Melissa and she said to just send her an email with the road names and missing sign locations

and she would get with Cole and them to find and fix. It’s just small stuff and if we can get it fixed, we need to. (conversation ensued) CM Beckum – At one time we had a machine that could make our own street signs.

Not sure how it works, but Mr. Billy was in charge of it. CM Harrison – The last I heard, when I first moved here, it was broken. But we can check into it.

4) Jake Brake Ordinance – sample provided – Mayor Daniels – Do we have one? CM Beckum – I thought we had one at one time, but it couldn’t be found in any records. We could ask the Chief over here if Montezuma

has one and does it work? Chief Finch – We don’t have it in Montezuma. What we do is we get noise complaints and take care of them. We can send out to some other cities and see what they use. CM Harrison – it says

that a sample was attached, but I don’t see it. Is there a fine attached to your noise ordinance? Do you know if we have one here that’s similar? Chief Finch – yes. CM Harrison – Then we just need the sample to look at.

CM Beckum – And get some signs up. It’s pretty hard to enforce, but we could at least try. (conversation ensued).

5) Mayor and Council Salaries – Mayor Daniels just wants to adjust pay from quarterly payment to monthly. I spoke to Ms. Glenda today and I’m going to donate $100.00 of mine to the Mayor’s Reading Club to help get

that project started. No need to vote if everyone is in favor. Melissa we will move from quarterly to monthly for mayor and council salary.

6) BRACE Grant – CM Harrison this grant promotes clean and safe cities applied for by former CM Leisa Cross. We have to finish some of it by end of March. She has already done the research and is coming back to help

with it. Camera system for the city dump. Signs, fence curtain, marketing, mailers, etc. I will design them for free. The bulk of the money is for dumpsters. She’s willing to help and fresh ideas are great. All money has to

be spent or sent back. Melissa has to send the receipts back in April. She’s pretty much planned the whole thing, we just have to execute. The grant has already been won. We have to let people know about the coloring

contest and give out prizes, etc. I will forward everyone the PDF that she created. I will get started on the flyers. Mayor Daniels – I will advertise at the school for the coloring contest and the library. (conversation ensued).

7) CM Beckum – Just a little safety issue also – the lights in front of City Hall. Some of us don’t see as well as we used to, I would like for us to re-establish those lights. I think the old conduit that brings the wires out are

still there, so I don’t think that it would be a big issue. Jeff – I know an electrician. He would have to come test the wires. Mayor Daniels – We just need to get some lights. CM Beckum- might be a breaker somewhere

that was turned off when they got in the shape they were in.

8) Chief Position / Contract – Mayor Daniels any recommendations. CM Harrison – I’m thinking 3-6 months. Why don’t we send our recommendations? I don’t know, but we need to make a decision by next week though.

CM Mahone – We are going to have to go ahead and address it. We’ve got to extend the contract out. As we seen last night, what we slighted for is one chief and the three full time police is not going to be sufficient. If

the City of Montezuma will continue the contract that we have in place, that is what I’m going forward with. CM Harrison – You mean one in four, why do you say one in three. CM Mahone – Because one of the

salaries went to the flock camera system. (conversation ensued). Chief Finch – we still have to worry about the jail and transport also. (conversation ensued). CM Harrison – This is what I’m thinking.. That we bring on

the chief. We don’t want to shut down the relationship. We want a win/win. We’re sister cities. Bring in a chief and let yall work together, give him time to build up our first, but not break down what we have. Two separate entities and we work together. Or you reduce the monthly charges or we figure that out. We’re still separate, but we still help each other. If anyting, that steps up. We don’t want it so one sided that we are only leaning on you, we want you to be able to lean on us, too. Intensify the help. That’s how I envision it. (conversation ensued). CM Mahone – Montezuma is the force for the entire county. The cities have always worked together, but right now their scheduling man-power to help Oglethorpe. (conversation ensued). Chief Finch – I’m going to continue to work with everybody in the county, but right now we are obligated to do it. I’m not going to leave ya’ll. I know my Mayor and Council might have an issue. (conversation ensued). Mayor Daniels – We have heard and we have listened. Going to not even go to Old Business tonight. We need to come to a decision next week.

**Old Business:**

1) Gym Repair – Mayor Daniels

2) Cell Phones for Council – Mayor Daniels

**Other Business:**

**Comments from the constituents –** Madison Porter recommends that we keep Montezuma. No one is going to want to pay the taxes for what officers we need. Still optimistic about the future. But if we’re safe now let’s continue to be safe. Brenda Harvey – Listening to Chief Finch and what is he’s saying is right and real. Montezuma is supplying with our safety. I’d like to keep. Another constituent likes what we have as far as the school is concerned. Mayor Hill – So what I’m hearing is you want to see a familiar face and you want to feel safe, visibility, etc. Another constituent not from our area thankful for the clean up on McClendon St.

**Adjourn:** 7:42PM