CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2024 – 6:00PM

**Prior to meeting swearing in of new council: Jimmy Daniels, Jr. – Mayor, Cassandra Woodard – Council Member, Michael Mahone – Council Member, and Natalie Bradley – Council Member.**

**Call to order:** Mayor Daniels, Jr. 6:08PM

Council and Dept Heads in Attendance: CM Harrison, CM Bradley, CM Woodard, CM Mahone, CM Beckum, Melissa Jones, Chief Finch, City Attorney Coogle, Fire Chief Childs

Council absent:

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** CM Harrison

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as written made by CM Mahone, 2nd CM Harrison, AIF

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made toapprove minutes from December 7, 2023 Regular Council Session made by CM Mahone, 2nd CM Harrison, AIF

**Recognitions of Guest(s)**:

1) Chief Finch – Reported on auto arrests, theft of appliances, and Buck Creek Bypass meeting. Construction begins January 15th and expected to last approximately 6 weeks. Two of the flock cameras have to be moved over 3 feet for this construction. Officer Cruthirds is now radar certified. Mayor Daniels asked that if Chief Finch could move the flashing speed sign closer to Buck Creek Bypass when construction begins? Chief Finch advised he would. Attorney Coogle asked about an Emergency Route if needed? Chief Finch stated that he advised his officers to go the long way around. To only go through the construction if they had to. CM Harrison – Originally the plan was not to have the big trucks using that road per the commissioners correct? Chief Finch- Oliver said that he’s looking into it and the strength of the new road looks like it would be ok. If it becomes a truck route, then could possibly become a State Route. CM Bradley – Concerned about the train holding up traffic? Chief Finch – That’s just the nature of the beast. Not much we can do about that. CM Beckum – If it becomes a State Route, and you can influence that, then the state would be responsible for that road. Chief Finch – Yes, it’s something they are looking at. They are adding shoulders and widening it, and planting grass. CM Harrison – This would be good so that Oglethorpe doesn’t have to incur responsibility.

2) Chief Childs – We had a good safety year. ISO Audit is coming up on the 17th. We hope to keep the same score or better. We are currently a 5, but would like to get to a 3 within the next few years. CM Harrison – If we get a 4, then that means better insurance rates? Chief Childs – Yes. ISO is a private company that sells the info to insurance companies. Residents benefit down to a 3, but only businesses benefit from 1-2.

**New Business:**

1) Motion to approve using funds from Splost, TIA, and/or Water Sewer account to cover costs not covered by GDOT grant to go ahead and fix Anna Drive. Once claim is awarded from the insurance company, the money will be put back into said accounts made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Mahone, AIF

**Old Business:**

**Other Business:**

1)Mayor Daniels, Jr. advised that his choice for Mayor Protem was CM Bradley, if she would accept. CM Bradley accepted.

**Adjourn:** CM Mahone 6:26PM