CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

JULY 27, 2023 – 6:00PM

Call to order: Mayor Hill

Department Head Reports:

1. City Clerk, Melissa Jones – report emailed to council prior to meeting.
2. Police Dept – Cindy Kleckley / Interim Chief Finch – I sent you all an email with the information in regards to the Courtware Solutions renewal contract. (This is our Management Data System.) They were bought out by JusticeOne. Doesn’t cost the city anything if the police department is bringing in the monthly base pay of the contract which is $700.00. Just wanted to let ya’ll know that I would be signing the contract. CM Harrison – So it’s just renewing the contract? Chief Finch – That’s right. The next thing I want to bring up, I just got back from the Georgia Chief’s Association and I want to thank Mike and Eddie and them. I appreciate ya’ll for helping me do something that I didn’t even know ya’ll were helping me do. When ya’ll be seeing the flyers coming up, you let me know. Block party on Asbury Road, etc. What they told us at the GCA is those ain’t nothing but recruiting things for gangs. Basically, what they told us is, they will come in and put a flyer out to throw off the Mayor and council. Then to throw off the police they say they giving out candy and stuff for the kids. Honestly, what they doing is putting these flyers out to recruit people. Then they are having a gang meeting. They pretty much telling these kids we can take over your city if you don’t join one of these gangs and do what we are telling you to do. So, a lot of times I’ve been reaching out to CM Daniels, you and you and telling them hey go talk to this guy and tell him don’t do that. We have deterred three on Asbury Road. About three weeks ago they said they were going to have a pool party up there and put it out that they wanted everybody to come to their pool party. CM Harrison – There’s a pool over there? Chief Finch – No. So, I asked them where they were going to get a pool and they said they were going to bring in a portable pool…. So, when you put these flyers out there, you are bringing in all types of people into your group. And that’s what the GBI Gang Intelligence Unit, is basically what they are doing. People going to be complaining to the mayor that we won’t let them have their party, but if I feel it’s something to it, I am going to put a stop to it. So if you see these flyers and all that’s basically what’s going on. I got an email about three weeks ago saying they are installing some more Flock Cameras within our community. They supposed to do it tomorrow. I don’t know if they will. They Mayor signed off on a letter for some streets to go ahead and Ms. Melissa already sent that in. Hopefully in a few days some more will be installed. I will tell you the cameras are working. We were able to lock up the people who came into our community stealing. One of the vehicles that Captain Hill told me about two hours ago, we just tracked them in South Carolina. We can get people anywhere in the United States. People came up wanting to know how we were able to make arrests so fast, and it took us looking at a lot of film, but it worked. I think it’s going to be a blessing once the infrastructure is complete around Oglethorpe and Montezuma. CM Harrison – How long is footage saved again? Chief Finch – It’s in the cloud. I can put your car information in and it would tell me how many times you’ve come in front of the cameras. It’s in the cloud. We also solved a gang fight in Montezuma with it. Three cars were identified and we were able to identify the people involved. Everybody knows about these cameras. CM Coogle – How many cameras do we have in Oglethorpe? Chief Finch – They are supposed to be putting some up tomorrow. Just waiting on that to come in. You are going to have 10. CM Harrison – A total of 10? CM Finch – yes 10. What ya’ll told me to do at the work session, I did it. I spoke to the people about what we had talked about in our work session. I did it. So that task has been completed. I’m going to get with Mr. Don tomorrow and tell him to go ahead start tomorrow so ya’ll can get your building up and do what ya’ll going to do with that building. There is a state law in the school system that every school system is supposed to have active shooter drills. I got with Chief Duncan and said hey you’re the chief and should lead, but I will help you. He said, I’m going to need your help. What I did was put together a table top which consists of myself, Mr. Brown, Ms. Leggett, and Chief Duncan. What came out of it is (I explained what the active shooter was) we discovered that the Macon County Emergency Action Plan doesn’t have it included. We went to Schley and Dooly County Schools and looked at their action plans as they have a similar school set up as to what we have here. I talked to Chief Childs as he called me today and we are going to start Active Shooter Drills. These drills need to be real. We need to be prepared. We are doing another tabletop on the 8th and I invited Chief Childs to talk about the emergency and fire part of it and I’m going to talk about law enforcement and we are going to bring in the Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent, and more people. We are going to have to put a plan together. It’s a lot of work. The main goal is to make sure the people in these schools are safe. There are some safety measures in place. The teachers are supposed to be wearing a little chain that when you push the button, it is supposed to let law enforcement know exactly where the danger is at. Guess what, nobody told us about this. We don’t know the code. We can’t take a chance on not knowing this stuff when something happens. CM Harrison – You mean the system was implemented and ya’ll weren’t aware? Chief Finch – We don’t even know nothing about the system. They said they even have a light system in there – green, red, \_\_\_\_\_ and we don’t even know what that means. CM Daniels – All of it connected to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Chief Finch – The doors are locked, we don’t have the code, how are we supposed to get in? So I would have to get a firefighter to go up there with us, to break in so we can get in, or we will just be standing up there at the front. CM Harrison – Do ya’ll have drills CM Daniels? CM Daniels – No. We have protocol, but haven’t had a drill. We do have fire drills and tornado drills. Chief Finch – But, it’s mandated now that you have to have so many drills. Like I said before we start doing these drills, all of our emergency personnel and first responders need to be on the same page with our school system. All of this stuff came out during the tabletop. We are going to look at what Schley Co. and Dooly Co. are doing. They have 3 schools set very similar. One suggestion was, if something happened at the High School, was to bring the parents over to the Oglethorpe Gym. If something happened at the Elementary School, the parents need to meet at the Preston Williams Center. That would keep the parents from being in the hot area. We need to get this pushed through the board ASAP. I just wanted to bring it up that if there was an active shooter, then we would want to use ya’lls gym to brief the parents on what’s going on. CM Harrison – It’s good that ya’ll are working on this and getting it fixed. Chief Finch- Everything is falling in place. CM Harrison – I also wanted to bring to your attention that the young lady that lives in the home with the high fence, she has taken it to the state that someone is harassing her about having that fence. Chief Finch – not us. CM Harrison – I don’t think it’s true. Again, we need to get moving with whatever we are going to do with these ordinances. I was upset by that because I know our council is not harassing her. Chief Finch- I know we haven’t done anything, so it could be some citizens they are talking about. We haven’t moved on it. CM Harrison - I know we had the moratorium, but nothing came out of it so I don’t know where that’s coming from. Chief Finch – I’m here at these meetings and listen to what ya’ll say and so we haven’t said anything to her because ya’ll have to get your ordinances updated. CM Harrison – I guess be careful because I don’t want any law suits. Chief Finch – The only thing we are doing is making a move on these dogs. As far as our staff, we haven’t said nothing to that lady. CM Harrison – I believe you; I was just shocked and I just wanted to let everybody know. Chief Finch – The new officer is working with Jennings. He knows all the streets in Oglethorpe. Only thing is he’s a little timid. Just need to get him out in the community and greeting people and so on.
3. Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month
4. Water/Sewer/Streets, HWR Jeff Harrison – They removed the trees at the cemetery and removed one that fell across the road. Ms. Melissa gave me this note a few minutes ago and said there are some limbs hanging over the road on Kaigler St. and hitting the tops of the buses. Some of those, we can’t reach. There is $7K left in the old LMIG and I would like to see if the guy that came and cleaned up the cemetery (Joey Barnes) he has a bucket truck and see if he could come do these that we can’t reach. We have a pole saw and get what we can reach. I can get Cole to go around the city with this guy and see if he could get us a cost on what it would take to get this done. You can use the LMIG for roads and this falls in that category because of the cars, buses, etc. Chief Finch – How about getting with Mr. Tim, he has a bucket truck. Jeff – Tim has a bucket truck? Ok, if he can get it knocked down, our guys can get it off the ground. CM Harrison – Do you have Tim’s number? Jeff – I do. That’s the public works guy? Yes, I have his number. They’ve borrowed our jetter because theirs was down. Chief Finch – Us cities have to work together to save money. Jeff – So I’m pretty sure they will help us out. CM Coogle – It’s not a lot a limbs, just a few? Jeff – Yes, just a few, the one’s we can’t reach. We’ve been taking a brush and brush back where you can walk down the sidewalks like on Macon St. If he’s in the area and sees something he goes ahead and cleans it up, brings out the bush-hog . They did have a couple of leaks that they fixed. Have to go get another pallet of concrete to finish up over that at Dew Drop. We are still on track with the Waste Water Plant project. We have until February 2024 to do construction. CM Harrison – I spoke to Tim Ingram yesterday and he said that the Environmental Documentation had been submitted to the EPD and they are just waiting on them to tell us we can move with that. The Design paperwork was submitted yesterday and drafting and design alterations after they hear back from what was submitted. We are on schedule to go to bid in August. He feels like we probably won’t make the deadline, but we will be in “mid-construction” and he feels 95% confident that we won’t get dinged because we will be in mid-construction. I don’t like that, but… Jeff – And I’ve had some heated conversations with him because it was like it kind of went stagnant and there’s nothing I can do. I rely on him. I can’t draw the plans or anything. I do call and ask for status. CM Coogle – All over the world, you can’t get stuff done, so what difference is that? CM Harrison – And that was his rationale. Jeff – I agree. We are showing that it’s getting done. When the stimulus has ended, we can show them that we are 75% done and it will be ok. If they come back in February and nothing been touched over there, we will start getting fined. The road projects are in process, too. Anna Lane will get done at the same time with the drain pipes and overlay. CM Coogle – Going away from that, do we still have all those limbs and all on Cuyler Street? Jeff – probably. CM Coogle – What are we going to do about that? Somebody has got to do something? I know it was contractors that did it. Jeff – So what are you asking us to do? If we continue to pick up what contractors left, it won’t ever stop. CM Coogle – My suggestion is maybe we push it more in those people’s yards and get it out of the road. We can legally do that can’t we since it’s in our roads? Jeff – yes, but it isn’t in the road, it’s in the ditch. They picked up two truck loads out of there already. CM Coogle – I don’t know if we can fine the people that own the house or what. Jeff – That’s on ya’ll because it’s in ya’ll ordinances that if a contractor comes in and does the work, then they have to haul it off. That has not been enforced since we’ve been down here. Even though we tell them all the time that their contractor has to come back and clean it up. It will just sit there and sit there. To the point of that we finally pick it up and haul it off. Chief Finch – We will get with Ms. Melissa next week to see if ya’ll have an ordinance on that, fines and all. CM Harrison – we don’t. Chief Finch – If you have an ordinance, we can enforce that. Give them 10 days to get it moved and then if they don’t, we can file it in municipal court on a nuisance charge. CM Harrison – That’s what we don’t have. Jeff – You know we were able to do it with the home trash type stuff, we opened the gate and gave them somewhere to take it and now they do for the most part. Chief Finch – Some people going to follow the law and others are going to test you. If you don’t have the law in place, then people say the city ain’t going to do nothing and the police ain’t going to do nothing. Jeff – Right. But with these limbs, the contractor is getting paid to do a job and they need to complete it. It doesn’t even cost the contractor anything to dump it. Instead they drag it all out there by the road and have a massive pile out there. CM Coogle – Maybe we need to have a fee scale? Jeff – Well a fine. If you bring a contractor in your yard and you know that if he doesn’t haul it off, you are going to be fined for every day that it’s sitting out here. But, that’s something that ya’ll are going to have to work out. CM Mahone – To burn it, it’s a lot. Jeff – Don’t think you can burn like that in the city. Chief Childs – You can burn legally (not sure if the city has an ordinance against it) hand piled garbage – that means limbs and sticks. It has to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from a structure. As far as burning big stuff like that, you have to have other equipment, best to haul that off. CM Harrison – At RVRC Tuesday the person who helps write ordinances was not there, but I left my information so they could call me back so we can get going on this. They can help guide us with wording and all. Jeff – Well you’re already half way there. CM Harrison – Yes, just the fees. Now May Rd and Anna Dr – Tim Ingram said the survey is completed and they are pulling the plan together for the whole scope of work. Should be at the DOT for permitting by the end of August and we should be ready to go to bid in September. Jeff – yes and May Road should be done by the end of the year or first of next year. Now I did have a complaint about entering the housing authority property on Asbury. I went over there and it’s terrible. Our part is fine, but I talked to Richard at the housing authority and he wants to know that if we split the cost for making it smooth, would we be in agreement with that. I told him we had cold patch, but that’s temporary. He wanted to know if we could get the cost of what it would take to smooth it out so we could see if we could work it out. Jeff – Do you want me to call Shepherd Paving? CM Harrison – Please. And just get a bid. But I wanted to bring it before council first. CM Mahone – But that really falls on the housing authority though. CM Harrison – It does. I’m just trying to fix it. Maybe come up with a compromise. If we give him the bid and this is how much our trusted vendor would charge to fix it. Leave it right there and see what he comes up with. I really don’t think they have the resources. I don’t know. Jeff – They probably don’t. CM Harrison- Right and we can’t just act like it’s not there, it’s terrible. Madison Porter – Bradley (on that corner) and Richardson St has some bad pot holes and also the job you did on Railroad St is holding. Why not near the old crossing? There’s some bad holes there and they aren’t recent. Jeff – We’ve got to get the whole Railroad St paved. I’ll take a look at the holes and get bids. CM Mahone – They paved over there years ago and when they got to a certain point they stopped. Madison – Well they brought that up to Richardson Street, didn’t they? Well that’s been some years. What I’m suggesting is that those pot holes are just as bad as the one’s down by Anna Park. Jeff – Well Railroad Street is already in the works. CM Harrison – And voted on. Jeff – The road is sinking at Anna Lane due to the drain, so we have a list and trying to get them all done. We will go in and get it widened out back to the original width on Railroad St. It is number 3 on the list. Madison – The trees that were asked to be cut down. Were they growing near grave sites? CM Harrison – I don’t think so. Jeff – no, those were close to the road. A big tree actually fell. Are you talking about those old city trees in the middle? Madison – There are some trees that are so close to the slab and headstone, if allowed to continue to grow they are going to destroy the slab pushing up on them. It’s not bad now, but it’s easier to cut them now as opposed to years later. Jeff – We will take a look at that. CM Harrison – I’m adding it to my list. Jeff – I don’t know what is historical, but the ones in the middle with the moss and all probably are. Now, if they were dead probably not an issue. Madison – I’m talking about relatively young trees. CM Harrison – I’ll go out there with you next week. When are you in town? Jeff – Thursday/Friday. That’s it. Is there anything else you need from me? CM Harrison – If you will just get me a quote from Shepherd Paving for Asbury. Jeff – will do.
5. Fire Department – June and July reports emailed prior to meeting/copy on desk. – Chief Childs advised that the ISO audit has been extended until January so that we can make sure everything is in place that is needed. There are a few other things I would like to get done that could lower the ISO rating before the audit. CM Harrison – What caused you to postpone, what were nervous about? Chief Childs – I was trying to get all of our records straight, \_\_\_\_\_\_ in Montezuma, etc. I want to make sure everything is the best it can be before they come to the fire dept and review records. They just go by the information, but it is just like a test and they sell that information to insurance companies to decide what your insurance policy amount will be for your house. They aren’t there to do us any favors. So I just want to make sure that everything is 100% to the good. If your rate ever goes up, it takes several years to get that rate to go back down. I think you can get them to come back in 3 years. CM Harrison – I see ya’ll had a lot of trees down. Chief Childs – We generally don’t answer calls like that in other places, but here we don’t have the people like bigger cities. I changed our response per call some when I came in as chief. I haven’t changed the medical call response. The calls have increased a little bit. CM Harrison- Did ya’ll get all of your equipment in yet? Chief Childs – No we are waiting on our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It’s been coming in piece by piece. Hopefully they will be in in the next couple of weeks. We have been doing maintenance on some of our equipment to try and keep costs down from them having to go in the shop. Myself and CM Daniels walked through the gym. I don’t think it will take that much to fix it. But there are things that have to be done. The bars on the doors need to be fixed. CM Harrison – Does it make more sense to get all new doors or no? Chief Childs – I don’t know the prices, so I can’t say. Might could find some used ones where schools have done renovations or something. The water fountain is there that people said they were getting shocked on. You are not required to have a water fountain, so you could just take them out and cap it. The breaker boxes, the covers are off of them and they do need to get labeled. That’s the panel. The storage room has old heaters, but they need to have stored stuff a little ways away. It’s pretty simple stuff. The cleaning closet has a lot of chemicals and cleaning stuff in it - needs to be locked. CM Mahone – We can take all that stuff out and have like the same set up like we do with Ms. Joanne and she and bring her supplies with her to clean. CM Coogle – It would be simple to just put a lock on the outside. CM Harrison – Yes because when me and Cussetta cleaned it was handy to have the bucket and everything and sink right there. Now I see there is no working fire alarm system? That’s going to be pricey right? Chief Childs – I’m going to have to get some clarification on that. I don’t think you are going to have to have the forced monitor system – which means there’s an outside place monitoring your building all the time that calls 911 if there’s a fire. I think that if you just have the \_\_\_\_\_ stations that was in working order that would be cheaper. Another thing too, I took CM Daniels with me on a property/business who was wanting to get his business license back. I went over there last year or year and half ago and went through. I advised the owner that it was not going to work for what he was trying to do. The Building Inspector also went over there last year and told him he was not up to code and that he would have to have a state certified engineer sign off on that structure that it was sound before he would sign off on it. I told him he could do everything that I have already instructed him to do, but it is not going to do any good until he has it approved by a state certified engineer. He called me again the other day to come look at it and not one thing was done that I asked him to do. He was very adamant about me signing off so that he could get his business license. I explained that I am responsible for the safety of the citizens that entered that building and if something happened and I signed, then it’s on me. I don’t know if I need council’s vote or not because it’s not going to come out of General Funds, but out of the Fire dept bank account, but Jarrett Ward is a head Fire Marshall and is the Captain for the Americus Fire Dept. He contracts out doing inspections for code and stuff. I would like to bring him in to look at this structure. This is a special case, and in my opinion should probably be shut down completely. But I thought I would get him to come inspect it, he is state certified and has the authority to push things as far as they needed to go. I would not be using him all the time, just when things are more complex. CM Harrison – So when he called you to come back, did he feel like he had addressed the issues? Chief Childs – I don’t know. I have attempted to explain to him several times the why and how, etc. CM Daniels – He tried to explain to him that it was a different process for the fire dept from what David Parrott the building inspector has. I understand why he wants to call the Fire Marshall because it would save us a lot. I mean there’s a lot of stuff that’s just rigged up. I don’t blame Chief Childs because if he gets in trouble, we will get in trouble. Chief Finch – Just ride by there you can see where a wall was taken out and the ceiling is just sinking…. CM Daniels – For the capacity of people he is trying to have, if they had to get out for something, you would just have to stand and wait…. Chief Childs – There was an instance at a night club where people died in a fire because the door wasn’t right and they couldn’t get out. When there is a door issue like that, we will not ok it and they can’t get a business license. Like the Gallery over here, his door wasn’t right and he had to replace it before he was allowed to get a business license. Now his cooking appliances, range hood, and all are good – clean as a whistle. The building with the mural, me and that lady went back and forth a little bit about what needed to be done. CM Harrison – Wasn’t it going to be an Air BNB? Chief Childs – On top and maybe one on the bottom was to be office space. But the fire escape on top, it’s outdated and bolts are just run through the wall and that’s not code anymore. The angle and width were an issue. We went back and forth on that. What we came up with she would not have to have the secondary exit up there because the windows are 15ft high and we carry 24ft ladders. Instead of her having her plans redrawn, I will go ahead and sign off with the understanding that I will have to come back and inspect again before the city issues her a business license. I did talk to Chief Finch prior to the meeting about the active shooter plans and all. I know that we want to get in there and not let children just die. We will get this together and make the plan. I’m also looking at some grants through Homeland Security for Fire Depts and EMS. CM Mahone – What did you say about the hardware for them doors? Chief Childs – It’s just an out-swinging door and it’s called panic hardware for the door. Panic Hardware has probably 400 different options. CM Mahone – And it has an electric switch? Chief Childs – Yes, and if you’re panicked or something gets up behind you and you put pressure on that door, it’s going to open. Just push it. You can get them at Lowes. Wherever you can find the best deal. CM Daniels – With everything on here, the next step is to get a bid for it? Chief Childs – I don’t know what ya’ll are figuring as far as the amount to spend. CM Coogle – I think we can put it out to get someone to put bids in. CM Mahone – Probably do like the same thing with the electrician that fixed the outside. Get an electrician to come through and get some prices. Chief Childs – That was an easy fix because it was strapped to a pipe. CM Daniels – We got a start. CM Mahone – It was never shut down. That’s why the power wasn’t off. Chief Childs – If you do $40K worth of renovation, it has to be brought up to current code. CM Coogle – We ain’t going to do that. CM Mahone – W get an electrician in and take care of that then focus on the doors. CM Harrison – So we are saying to put it out to bid, or no? CM Mahone – I we have to do is get an electrician to come do a walk through and give us an estimate. The same thing he did with the outside. Then just go from there. Say fix it or not. He may be able to do the door part. CM Harrison – Ok so we will start with Mr. Yoder and then see if we have to get a contractor to put a door up.

Council/Committee Reports:

1. Mayor Hill – nothing to report
2. Human Resources/Finance – CM Coogle nothing to report
3. Public Safety – CM Cross - absent
4. Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison I think we covered everything with Jeff.
5. Planning & Recreation – CM Daniels, Jr. – Need to get with Terrell Jacobs about a grant. That wood around the slide and playground looks bad. I’m going to email Mr. Jacobs to see if there is a grant out there to update the wood around the park. CM Coogle – You talking about just the wood that lines around it? They’re like 4x6’s? CM Daniels – Yes, they’re not as big as, not that big. They go around the merry go round and the slide. CM Harrison – There’s grants out there, Jimmy. When we went to the small cities meeting, a bunch of them did improvements and they gave us information and I have a card so we can reach out to them. CM Daniels – I just want to keep it up. They read under the pavilion and that stuff just looks bad. CM Harrison – The merry go round probably needs to be replaced as it’s old. Madison Porter -reported a leak on Bivins/Macon on a vacant lot where grass had just been cut. CM Mahone – There’s one at the bottom of Asbury and the tested it. It’s a natural spring and it doesn’t stop. Madison – This one isn’t from rain. It’s not flooding, but the birds are making a bird bath.

New Business:

1) Food Trucks – CM Coogle – I’ve been seeing that this food truck has been coming regularly and they have their license and everything and that’s great. People are setting up and selling goods like Gain and Tide and I just want to know if they have to get a license or anything for doing that? Dollar General has a license to sale that stuff and these people are just selling it on the corner. Mayor Hill – I have seen them up there myself. Chief Finch – Our ordinance in Montezuma says you can’t do that unless you get a business license to do it. We told him not to come back over here until you get your business straight. I can send that ordinance over to you guys. But we don’t worry about that stuff too much like the pop-up stuff. We have the yard sale thing where they are allowed to do it so many times. That’s why they go out there to 26. These Food Trucks – it’s the new way now. They get a business license and move from place to place. CM Daniels – That guy right here (The Jamaican Food Truck) he is at a business location that is owned by somebody and he pays the owner a fee. CM Coogle – But he still has to get a business license. CM Daniels – He’s got one. Chief Finch – He’s got a propane tank out there. Food Trucks have to be inspected and everything, too. Since the pandemic, this seems to be the way to go. CM Coogle – my main thing is that they have to get a license just like everybody else.

2) CDBG Grant Administrator - plan with timeline due by 07/31/2023 to Dept of Comm Affairs – CM Daniels from the email I got we pretty much got until Monday to find somebody to find someone to do the grant. That’s what I got from my understanding. What are we going to do with the grant? I don’t understand how we get a deadline for that, but they don’t have a deadline for building. I guess we need to come up with an action plan. CM Harrison – I think we are working the plan now because Melissa has the RFP done. We are going to post so we are actively seeking a replacement. Besides that we are at a standstill until we have an administrator. We’ve spoken to RVRC. CM Daniels – So do we say that in our action plan? CM Harrison – I would. We are actively seeking a replacement. We’ve posted an RFP and reached out to our regional commission. CM Daniels – So just tell Melissa here this is our action plan. CM Harrison – Melissa check with Melissa to see if the business card I sent in to see if they are listed. CM Daniels – And they are still wanting to get their work done? CM Harrison – Do you think we should host a hearing to let people know what we are doing? CM Coogle – I would wait until we know more. CM Mahone – The individual that would be hands-on on board, they saw what transpired. CM Daniels – It’s pretty much one block. The Kaigler Street block. It was just questions on due dates and that they wanted answers. Now I see I have to let people know that I want to be available, but sometimes I have to say I don’t know. Madison Porter – Did ya’ll check receipts and everything, did ya’ll check that part? CM Daniels- Yes, we received an email with that stuff. We’re good on that part. CM Harrison – It’s just communication issues.

3) Veteran’s Day Program 2023- CM Harrison – Saturday November 11, 2023. Do we want to make that an annual event? CM Mahone – We need to figure out how we can get funds for cause I’ve seen in the past where like the library, it didn’t have a budget, but then the vote was moved to have a credit limit for that. CM Harrison – Well last year I got a sponsor and I’ve gone back to that same sponsor. CM Mahone – No, I mean we moved and created a budget like $150 to take care of what happens in the library, so there should be something in the budget for recreation. When we produce and make things happen, but there’s nothing in place for that there. Prime example, the water day that we just done, we should have some kind of budget. There’s got to be a way that we have a budget for the recreation and things that we are doing because if we don’t have a budget, how we plan on doing it. CM Coogle – I may agree with you, we have these things and we don’t have any money for it. It just pops up. CM Daniels – So do we create a budget? CM Mahone – That’s what I’m trying to find out how do we get to a point where we have a budget for events? CM Harrison – We have to obtain sponsorship like what I do for Oglethorpe Week, what I did last week. CM Mahone – That’s what we’ve been doing, but do we have to? CM Harrison – It is my understanding that yes you do, you cannot take public funds to have events. You have to get sponsorship. CM Mahone – Same thing like goes to General Funds right? CM Harrison – Does the sponsorship funds go to General Funds? No. CM Mahone – I mean like it’s the same thing as moving ARPA Funds to General Funds. It’s used to purchase things we’re doing. They just take money from one spot and move to another. Just like when that police roof went over the budgeted amount they just moved the money to the General Funds. I thought it was a bigger process that you had to do, then I realized it’s not, you just move money from one account to another. CM Harrison – But you do have to be specific on what it’s moved for. Like ARPA was pretty broad with what you could use it for so we were able to spend it on the fire dept, the roof, etc. CM Mahone – What do we need to do in order to have something for events? CM Harrison – Grants and sponsorships. That’s what you have to use. CM Daniels – What about fundraisers? CM Harrison – yes and fundraisers and earmark it. But with my time, I know that that’s a lot slower process so I went straight to the source. I went to Natalie at Flint Energies and asked if they would help again this year like they did last year. She said I think so just send me the request. Which I will do. CM Daniels- International Paper? CM Harrison – No, I haven’t gone to them yet because I worried them for over Oglethorpe Week. CM Mahone – How they done it? Was it just for events or specific for a certain event? CM Harrison – It has to be for a specific event. So, I asked specifically for Veteran’s Day for $1,000.00 and she said put it in an email, and I’ll do that this evening. I just wanted to get ahead of it and first of all ask y’all. I think it went super well last year and was very well received. CM Daniels – I think we should do it. CM Harrison – The only thing I would like to add this year is to have the actual marching band be part of the celebration, along with the color guard. CM Mahone – When did you say you wanted to do it? CM Harrison – Saturday, November 11. CM Mahone – We should have the gym ready by then just in case a storm comes through. CM Harrison – I’ve reached out to Congressman Bishop, since he is a Veteran, to see if he would be our keynote speaker. I’m kind of doing the pre-work, but I didn’t want to do too much without bringing it to council to see if you wanted to do it again this year. CM Coogle – Since we don’t fund it, I don’t see what the problem to be. Madison Porter – Can’t that be in the annual budget? CM Harrison – What do you mean? Madison Porter – like monies for events? CM Coogle – City events, no. CM Mahone- I’m saying, it’s like the same thing where we made a budget for the library, just a hundred dollars. It’s just a hundred dollars to take care of events. We’re not having huge stuff. CM Daniels – Basically what he’s saying is let’s talk about it before we start our budget. CM Harrison – Let’s talk about it. Madison Porter – Why wait until November? You’ve already got your methods laid down. You can start making contact with those people who you plan to ask. CM Coogle – Let’s move on.

4) State Routes 49 & 26 – Joint petition to DOT with the County for roundabout- CM Harrison – There have been several requests that have been funneled through the county manager from truckers, farmers with equipment, etc. Some have gone up through our state senators and come back down. He is on board, if we are on board, to petition GDOT to put in a substantial roundabout that would keep traffic flowing. CM Mahone – There are a lot of wrecks out there. CM Harrison – Because it’s two state highways, we would have to pay nothing. We would just have to go to them to make the request. Our state rep and senators are both onboard if we if we are on onboard to petition it together. So as a council are you ok with voting on that to go with the county on that. CM Coogle – Yes, we can support it, especially if it isn’t costing us anything. CM Harrison – Melissa put that on the agenda for next week to vote on. Mayor Hill- I think you would get a lot of support on that. CM Harrison – I think so as well.

5) RVRC Transportation Alliance Meeting/Grant Opportunities – CM Harrison – I attended the meeting on the 26th and the topic was regional transportation alliance. I gave everyone a copy of the grants that are available. They are typically formula grants which means federal gov’t sends money down to the state, which is typically through GDOT and then it is disseminated to local municipalities. The bi-partisan infrastructure law which is going to go away, it’s one of a kind and isn’t going to happen again for a really long time. There’s a lot of money coming down in a series of 5 years and a lot of it is focused on transportation for competitive grants – where you can send in application and be awarded money. This is not something that small municipalities are used to doing on this big of a scale, so that’s why RVRC is stepping in. This is not their usual thing either, but they are going to bring in a host of consultants to gather some grant applications and they just needed to test the waters to see if municipalities would be interested and we all said of course. It’s free money, why not. It’s really hard to get funded. They have broken us down by location and we are with Taylor and Schley because we are right there together and same type demographic. They asked 5 of us to come up with ideas. We came up with fixing bridges, funding our airport, roundabouts, transit, etc. All of these went back to RVRC and they are going to compile a list of what grants we could go after based on the list. All of us will have the opportunity to give our input after they decide what grants we should go after. It was a very robust money and a lot of money out there. May take a year or two to find out if we are funded, but worth it because it is a lot of money. Mayor Hill- That’s a very worthy grant writing class also. CM Harrison – This is way beyond what we would be able to do by ourselves, but they have a group called WSP (I believe) is the organization that we would contact to write the grants on our behalf. CM Daniels – Will this grant bring back transportation? CM Harrison – We asked for it because we need it. CM Daniels – We used to have it, but I don’t see it anymore. CM Mahone – I think it believe it became private owned and the prices went up. CM Harrison – Hopefully we can bring it back.

Old Business:

1) Gym Review Update – CM Daniels – Chief Childs and I walked around. CM Daniels - Just want to have Melissa put on the agenda for next week so we can vote on it. CM Mahone – Even it we have to get a bid we need it added.

Other Business:

Adjourn: CM Mahone 7:32PM