CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 2, 2024 – 6:00PM

**Call to order:** 6:01PM- Mayor Daniels

**Council Present:** CM Woodard, CM Mahone, CM Beckum (CM Harrison on the phone)

**Others Present:**  City Attorney Coogle

**Pledge of Allegiance:** all

**Invocation:** Mayor Daniels

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by CM Woodard, 2nd by CM Beckum, AIF

**Approval of Minutes** from April 4, 2024 Regular Council Session and the April 25, 2024 Work Session made by CM Woodard, 2nd by CM Beckum, AIF

**Recognitions of Guest(s)**:

**New Business:**

1) Public Works Contract increase – Mayor advised email was sent out to all in regards to details of the contract and what he sub-contracts out from Jeff. (discussion ensued) CM Mahone suggests a ride along to verify what should be getting done. Says a weekly schedule can’t be identified. Too much gray area. Need to make a list. CM Woodard – From his standpoint, he was never given specifics. He just took over because he was needed. Besides that, it’s not like we have people knocking down the door to come in here and do anything. We need to think about the future as well and him saying he might not want to do this anymore. From our last meeting, I don’t foresee this being a long-term thing. Attorney Coogle – I can help a little bit there. Originally Jeff was just supposed to do water and sewer. Then we had to let go the street department and it was handed to Jeff. It wasn’t what he came here for. CM Mahone – We need to do a ride along. To be honest it’s being played out like our backs are against the wall. He says you can’t hire 2 guys to do what we do, but he ain’t doing anything, though. We can hire the same guys right here $53K cheaper and do the same thing. Mayor Daniels – on the email, there are 10 spots that the sub-contractor does. Everything else, we need to check on. CM Woodard – you said CM Moore went down there to cut the limbs at the park, was that part of their contract, too? CM Mahone – No, what I’m saying is they didn’t pick up the pile of limbs down there. They don’t pick up limbs or anything is what I’m saying. They getting paid. Like the cemetery they didn’t cut until Easter and haven’t cut since then. That was March 30, 2024. CM Beckum – First of all one of the bigger things is the limbs and leaves pick-up. Would we have any interest in talking to Montezuma? I did preliminarily speak with Mel Fulghom if they would be interested or if their crew would even have time. I think we could get by easily with once every two weeks. Would be even be interested in breaking this thing down? I know we have other things. CM Mahone – I’m sure we could do that with Montezuma, but we can’t keep paying Jeff for doing it. We paying somebody else and him still getting a paycheck. I think we just need to figure out everything that should be being done here, but from what I’ve seen ever since I’ve been here, he don’t have the man power. We are paying out roughly $7K month to them, but what service are they providing with the exception of he subbed out? So just hypothetically showing this guy is getting paid to do all this here and we end it because he kind of said he doesn’t really want it. We don’t want to get put in a situation where he says he’s through with it. We could pick up this person here and let the city pay him for cutting, then Montezuma do the limbs every two weeks. That would be enough. We don’t have the same equipment they have. Mayor Daniels – Do we decrease the contract for Jeff if we go with Montezuma? CM Mahone – Need to see where Jeff and them are going with this. CM Beckum – We have to remember that when the limbs are picked up here, we take them out to our limb pile, and then we have to pay a contractor to come grind it up. If Montezuma picked up, they could take it over there. If you all agree to allow me to, I will talk more with Mel about it. He feels that they could do it a lot cheaper than what we are paying out now for limbs and leaves. That would eliminate one thing at this best. We definitely don’t want to run off Jeff and them, but in all of us talking with him I don’t think he would care at all about losing it any of it as long as he keeps the water and sewer. Now the cemetery – isn’t it sub-contracted out? CM Mahone – They quit. They only cut right before Easter, but I think he could have been cutting it. But what he subs out isn’t our issue. CM Beckum – Maybe breaking it up into parts might make it more manageable. CM Woodard – If we did go with Montezuma, what happens if they have a month where they are busy and they can’t leave from over there, where does that leave us? CM Beckum – If they agree to enter a contract, they will have to figure that out themselves. (conversation ensued) Mayor Daniels – HWR’s contract ends in October. Let’s do the ride along and make a list. Then look for improvement. If we don’t see improvement, then go from there. CM Woodard – I think we should go ahead and get a quote from Montezuma just to see what it would run us and make some comparisons. CM Beckum – I will pursue that with Mel, then. CM Mahone – One day next week let’s get together and ride around the city and make the list. Any day except Monday. CM Beckum – For the record, most cities don’t do any of this for the citizens anymore. We don’t want to jump that far for now, but there may come a time that we can no longer afford to do this anymore. Mayor Daniels – I agree. I’m in a “Mayor’s “email thread and a lot of cities are having these same issues and most cities are going to contractors as opposed to employees. CM Beckum – also, before we get too much into this, we should talk with Jeff before we go too far. CM Mahone – No we need to go around and see what all needs to be done and present it to him.

2) Flag Pole at Cemetery – per CM Moore (absent) someone was to come present. Table until next work session.

3) City of Civility Ordinance – presented by Mayor Daniels and CM Harrison. Once adopted, GMA will be advised for recognition of Oglethorpe.

Motion to adopt the City of Civility Ordinance made by CM Harrison, 2nd by CM Woodard, AIF

4) Live Streaming City Meetings – CM Harrison advised that CM Moore is in process of purchasing phone exclusive for the livestream of council meetings. He wants to do a test first to make sure process works correctly. He will present more at later date. CM Moore – Is he purchasing it? CM Harrison – He is purchasing on behalf of the city. CM Woodard – We might be better with a tablet that stays here. CM Harrison – He said it was a device, I’m not sure. We can talk more about it later. Mayor Daniels – Yes, let’s discuss more in the work session.

5) Set Time Line for Chief of Police Application Review – CM Woodard – has it been advertised? Mayor Daniels – yes. I have emails and hand copies of those that are coming in. CM Harrison – What date would we use as our cut-off? CM Beckum – If we are going to put a time line on interviewing, we need to also make a time line for hiring as we may lose another good applicant. CM Woodard – We need to start with the interviews. Mayor Daniels – We need to deal with the insurance first. We were supposed to present and it hasn’t come back up. It was talked about last month and nothing has been brought up. (conversation ensued) CM Beckum – Let’s think about this before the next work session and have more conversation then. CM Woodard – Since I’m the one that brought up the insurance the last time, what can I do and where can I look to figure out the insurance. Do I sit down with Melissa about outside insurance? Mayor Daniels – GMA has basically what we already have. I looked with someone and could never get a quote. If you are going to entertain this, I suggest you get with her and go from there. We need to have ready for when we have interviews. CM Woodard – I just know that it’s going to be hard to get good quotes for just 5 people. There won’t be discounts for that. Mayor Daniels – And other cities are paying for their employees because they have more employees. CM Harrison – If we look to go with GMA there should be discounts. There is a survey that we can use. Just have the employees complete it and send to the providers as well as GMA. I’ll forward it to Melissa and have her get completed by all of our employees and collect. CM Beckum – advised the Chamber of Commerce offers an insurance if interested. Also, part of a group with the City of Montezuma. Attorney Coogle – That turned out to be a disaster. Mayor Daniels – just get the research done and talk about in next work session.

6) Need adoption of Resolution for GEFA Loan CW2020034 (Waste Water Plant $1,593,800) – Motion to adopt Resolution for GEFA Loan CW2020034 for the City of Oglethorpe Waste Water Plant made by CM Beckum, 2nd CM Mahone, AIF

**Old Business:**

**Public Comments (2 Minutes):**

**Adjourn:** 7:02PM CM Beckum, 2nd CM Woodard, AIF