CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

APRIL 27, 2023 – 6:00PM

Call to order: CM Harrison 6:01PM

Council Present: CM Harrison, CM Daniels, CM Mahone, CM Coogle

Council Absent: Mayor Hill and CM Cross

Department Head Reports:

1. City Clerk, Melissa Jones – report emailed to council prior to meeting.
2. Police Dept – Cindy Kleckley / Interim Chief Finch – read list of calls and described the situation with driver laying drag in downtown Oglethorpe and on Asbury. Drivers were charged with 7 different accounts of misconduct. Had a shooting on Keen St. There was a party and the resident wanted everyone to leave his house so he went outside and started shooting. He was charged with reckless conduct and sent over to the county jail. Complaints at Carla Drive (trailer park) for break-ins. Arrested 3 adults and 2 juveniles. GA Cities Week being supported in both Montezuma and Oglethorpe. Parade in Montezuma on Saturday and Movie Night here Friday night. Whitehead has been certified. CM Harrison – We had some juveniles arrested you said? Chief Finch – They will be put in the juvenile system for break ins. CM Coogle – Good job. CM Harrison – Thank you for the support this week.
3. Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month
4. Water/Sewer/Streets, HWR Jeff Harrison – absent – CM Harrison with regards to May Road the engineer Mr. Ingram is working to get a detailed estimate of the cost. Feels he will have the information by the end of the week so we should have a figure next week at the council meeting. Then we can figure out what other roads we can work on also. They did put the algaecide at the water treatment plant. There was a problem with duck weed. Give it a few more days to see what the algaecide treatment does because we really want it to work to save the city money for replacing the mats if we can. He will have a report for next week’s meeting. He has also identified a new worker that is scheduled to start in May after graduation. He is a high school senior and he has expressed wanting to work. They will continue to hold it down until he gets here. CM Daniels – Jerome Kendrick (712 Smith Road) says his meter still isn’t reading correctly and he’s getting outrageous bills. He said it went up and then went down and that it hasn’t settled. Says he wants a new meter. CM Harrison – I will let Jeff know.
5. Fire Department – CM Harrison – I know the FD participated on Safety Day at the school for Ga Cities Week. I’ll reach out for the report for next week’s meeting.

Council/Committee Reports:

1. Mayor Hill - absent
2. Human Resources/Finance – CM Coogle – Melissa’s report is pretty much the same as mine. Everything looks good and going pretty well. CM Harrison – I know they had the auditor in this week for both financial and payroll and Melissa said as far as she knows the payroll one was done within and hour. CM Coogle – So they did a good job. CM Harrison – yes and we honored them yesterday for Administrative Professionals Week. All four ladies received a gift recognizing the great work that they do.
3. Public Safety – absent
4. Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison
5. Planning & Recreation – CM Daniels, Jr. – mine will be under new business. CM Coogle – It was brought to my attention that we need some new shavings up there at the playground at the park. CM Daniels – It’s not mulch? CM Coogle – I might can get with someone who can give us some. Chief Finch – (can’t understand) CM Daniels – Tim helps out a lot, so I’ll reach out to him. He does a lot when we go out and clean up. CM Harrison – Were you able to use the benches? CM Daniels – I was. So, I moved one of the park benches from the basketball court to the parking lot for the Kona Ice event and then put it back.

New Business:

1) Cleaning person for City Hall lobby and bathrooms – CM Harrison – We need to consider hiring someone to come in once a week to clean. The ladies took it on when we were under financial strain, but I think it’s time to hire someone to come in and do that. The bathrooms, sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, wiping down, etc. CM Coogle – How often? CM Harrison – I think once a week would be plenty. CM Coogle – I know a lady that’s here that would be great at that. CM Harrison – I know she mentioned the lady that used to do it has since passed away, but she did it for like $50 a week, but if you are interested Joanne maybe you and CM Coogle since he’s over Human Resources can get together on that. We can talk about it next week. Madison Porter – Well the men’s restroom…. CM Harrison – It’s terrible right now and it’s been out of order. Madison Porter – it needs more attention than once a week. CM Harrison – I’ve had Mr. Windham come in and unstop the toilet today and yes it was left a mess. It has been out of order for a couple of weeks. It’s awful and that’s from people coming from off the streets. Madison Porter – Is there hot water in city hall? CM Harrison – I don’t know. Madison Porter – There is no pressure at all. CM Daniels – Could be an element out or something. Madison Porter – Is there hot water in the female’s bathroom? CM Harrison / Daniels – We don’t know. We will ask. CM Harrison – Do you think it needs to be twice a week? CM Daniels – Maybe Tuesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. Whatever fits your schedule. CM Harrison – Doesn’t matter to me, I just don’t think it’s fair that they have to clean that up, too. CM Daniels – I agree. CM Cross – Also, please make sure that it is listed on the website that the city is an equal opportunity employer, etc. (It is listed on our website – MJ)

2) Gym reopening procedure – CM Daniels – I know we kept the lights on and I just want to start working on getting it opened back up. Especially with the summer coming up. Camps are going on and a lot of kids don’t get to go to these camps. It’s beneficial for hosting things. Like tomorrow is Movie Night and it might rain and we don’t have anywhere else to go. I just want to get a discussion started and start working on small stuff until we get it back it’s up and running so we can rent it out, etc. CM Harrison – CM Mahone had a great suggestion that we get our inspector David Parrott together with a contractor and anyone from council who wants to go, to walk the building and do a punch out list to make the building usable. It needs a good thorough cleaning, some electrical, and some door issues, but it’s not that bad. If we are all there at the same time, hearing the same thing, then we could develop a plan of action. CM Daniels – yes, we can move down the list even though we don’t have a budget. I was going to talk about that, too. CM Harrison – I would imagine we could fix it with ARPA Funds. It’s something we need to look into. CM Daniels – I have some ideas to raise funds if we can’t use ARPA. CM Harrison – What’s your target date to re-open? CM Daniels – Next year, the summer. CM Mahone – When we went in there last time, nothing in there was major. There were some cracked electrical outlets that came off. Once we get with Parrot or Martin (should be Owen Childs). We can walk through, find out what it would cost, do fundraisers, and execute. It would be perfect for like tomorrow with the weather. It can be utilized by citizens. But starting out, we need to get the doors done. Melissa please put it on the agenda for next week to move forward and get a date from David Parrot and a contractor. Chief Finch – The gym is also the only approved shelter in the county. CM Coogle – Maybe we can get some funding for it – maybe through the USDA. CM Harrison – I have someone now who wants to bring in food to give out the next day if we had somewhere to do it. We just need to have a practical list of what is wrong. CM Mahone – Do we have a start date on the roof for the police dept? CM Harrison- I don’t know. Melissa put status of police dept roof repair on the agenda for May 4th as well.

Old Business:

Other Business:

1) Recognition of Unsung Heroes – CM Harrison we have some visitors here that came out Saturday for our We love Oglethorpe Clean up day. We picked up bags of trash and couches, etc. They are part of the Macon County Gents which is lead by CM Daniels. Would you like to present them CM Daniels? (yes) CM Daniels – I know I give you all a hard time about a lot of things. You may not see it now, but you will later. (Awards Presented).

2) Elijah Ford would like to speak on grass and trash. – absent

3) ATM Machine in City Hall – CM Harrison – I’ve had some residents approach me to have one installed in City Hall. CM Daniels – I thought we were discussing getting a card machine. CM Coogle – I think that would be better than putting in an ATM Machine. I have some people I can contact. Chief Finch – That would be more efficient. We have it to where you can come in or go to our website and pay a ticket online. Discuss further on May 4th to see where we are.

4) Madison Porter – I wish that we would make a greater effort whereby some of our contractors of color could make some of this money. CM Harrison – For what? Madison Porter – Whatever. CM Daniels – Can I give you input on that Mr. Porter? (sure) So, when Mr. Harrison first came and brought up that he needed some help, I sent him two guys. He hired one and the other one just didn’t show up at all. The one he hired worked for a little bit of time and then he started to \_\_\_\_\_. So, there were people there, but they just shot themselves… it didn’t work out. It was just them not working out. He leaned towards it. We don’t discriminate. To address your concerns, we put it out there. They have had chances and nothing on our end, it was just they wouldn’t come to work, they would come late, etc. Madison Porter – I understand. CM Harrison – And Jeff has been very intentional about that. And the subcontractor who is doing the grass cutting is of color. Madison Porter – I just don’t want you to stop the effort. CM Harrison – I agree. CM Coogle – Never stop the effort. Madison Porter – We see what’s going on on the streets. Everybody don’t come here to hear what’s going on , they just see what’s going on on the streets.

CM Harrison – I just want to say Thank You to everyone who has participated in We love Oglethorpe Week. We put a lot of time and effort into it to have events every day. I think it touched every entity and dept of our city and hope that you appreciate it and that you’ve enjoyed it. We want to show you that we want to invest our time and energy to our constituents. Please come out to Movie Night tomorrow night. Vendors setting up at 5 and Movie at 7. I think it’s going to be Creed. Might be closer to 8pm.

Adjourn: 6:32PM CM Harrison