CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

AUGUST 29, 2024 – 6:00PM

Call to order: 6:00PM by Mayor Daniels

**Department Head Reports:**

1. City Clerk, Melissa Jones – report emailed to council prior to meeting.
2. Police Dept – Cindy Kleckley (regular council meeting) / Interim Chief Finch – emailed report / gave report – Emergency action plan discussion in regards to the teachers following procedures. Elementary school is problematic because it has so many windows. There is no communication between the school resource officers and the police departments (911 Center). The Emergency Button on pings Administration at the school. Parental control over children is also an issue.
3. Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month
4. Water/Sewer/Streets - HWR Jeff Harrison – Loaded the dumpsters down at the waste water plant twice this month. Installed a new meter box out on Stagecoach Road and fixed the sewage lift station out on Jordan Street as it tripped out. Some trash in it. Installed 2 stop signs and 5 street signs. Came in on Sunday and jetted the sewer line on Randolph Street because it was stopped up. Found a meter that had been covered up on Baker St. and installed a new meter, so now it is a radio read. Fixed a 2” main after hours up on Lily Lane. Someone had run over it and broke it and it was sticking up out of the dirt road. Added dirt and spread it out to fix the road. We buried it deeper as well. Cole contacted the contractors for the trees to be taken down at the cemetery. They sent in bids? Mayor Daniels – One of them, Blue Tag out of Andersonville, his bid didn’t say anything about the stumps. But he said he didn’t have a problem coming back and getting the stumps removed if needed. Jeff – Yes, you want them ground out or dug up and removed? Mayor Daniels – Probably ground out. Jeff – Emptied all of the trash cans, removed limbs, read meters, did cut-offs, and bush hogged around the city. (Information from Cole) CM Moore – Is the waste water plant locked up again? Jeff – The front is open, but the back to the pond is closed. We did have some guys come in Wednesday looking at adding some chemical to the plant to remove the sludge. Trying to reduce the cost of the waste water plant project. Mayor Daniels – Will that one pump issue cause issues to the resident’s water? I had a guy come up and complain about dirty water. Jeff – Those are two separate things…. They come from different places. If water coming into his home is discolored – then hydrants need to be published. Just let me know where it is. It has nothing to do with the waste water plant. The motors are fine, it was just the cabinets. The new project will enclose the cabinets so they are not setting out in the weather.
5. Fire Department – report emailed monthly – Chief Childs

**Council/Committee Reports:**

1. Mayor Daniels – Will talk at Planning Recreation
2. Human Resources/Finance – CM Harrison/CM Woodard – CM More advised that the audit was completed and sent to the state. We are in good standing. Our contract is done with this auditor. I think they have a potential new auditor in mind that we can discuss at a later date. Mayor Daniels – I also received an email in regards to the IRS situation and we are going to have to go another 90 days waiting on an agent. According to Mrs. Jones, we will be able to take care of the amount they are asking as soon as they give an accurate amount.
3. Public Safety – CM Moore – in regards to the Fire Dept our Engine had a major motor issue. After more review, the mechanic has found that it isn’t as bad as they originally thought, so it will be cheaper than what they originally thought ($10k - $12K). It’s the case around the timing chain that has cracked. Montezuma has loaned us one of their Fire Trucks until ours is fixed in about a week and a half. In regards to the patrol cars, you will notice that they are no longer sitting down at the police dept. We have started doing some of the servicing and getting them back up. One is almost complete. Once they are done, I will send out an update. By the end of the month meeting, I should have pictures and information on what it took to get them there. I did some research on the Flock Cameras. I have gotten better educated on them and have decided in my opinion that they are useful and a great investment. All cities are going to some version of these cameras or other technology. In regards to the Chief of Police position, I finally have the 2 background checks completed and will pick them up. I will get with council to get dates for when we can do an in-person interview. We are moving ahead, but we are moving slow to make sure that we do it all in the right way.
4. Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison (absent, but report sent) – Tim Ingram (engineer) advised Waste Water Plant work is out for bid. We had some issues with Georgia Power and getting answers back. The next work session on September 26th, we will open the bids that afternoon at 3:00PM at city hall. There is a lot of interest in the project. There is a new technology in regards to what Jeff spoke of about the chemicals to remove the sludge at the plant. (improves it about 40 % of what the dredging does) Railroad Street will be in the paper next week for bid. Should be opening the bids October 2nd or 3rd. May Road, the DOT has told us that they will come out and do all the work on Hwy 49. The maintenance work like the cleaning of the ditches and all will give us the ability to drain all the way to 49 and that’s an expense the city won’t have to pay. In the beginning they said that we would have to correct the slopes on the ditch because they are not up to code and that was going to push us there into an easement at the chicken farm and through a gas line and water line in conflict. So, if they come and do it, we don’t have to worry about that. The local area Engineer out of Perry told us that they would do it. The ditch will be made to 6ft deep in some places to help with the drainage. If DOT comes in and does the work, they will have to meet the standards on the drawing. They should send you all a letter in response to the letter that you sent to State Rep Patti Stinson. Mayor Daniels advised that he did receive an email from Representative Stinson and once we get a final quote, she would work to get us some funding. Tim – So do we need to go ahead and bid it then? Mayor Daniels – you can. Tim – Ok. Mayor Daniels – Initially CM Harrison sent the email and when she responded back to me, I let CM Harrison know. They seem to be on board. Tim – Can you forward me that email? Then I can reach out to the state aid coordinator and we will get this show on the road. Jeff Harrison – Are there going to be any issues with having to move water or gas lines for this project? Tim – I don’t think so, DOT will come out, but they do what they want to and we will have to deal with it. Mayor Daniels – So we are good to go. May Road is making some progress, Railroad St. we’re making progress, and Waste Water Plant making progress. Tim – Bid for Waste Water plant will be awarded at Council Meeting in October (that first Thursday). Finished by July-August of 2025. Mayor Daniels – Clifton Bradley Drive where the road is breaking away. Do we need to go ahead and move on or will that milling that was put out hold up for a little bit?

Jeff – Go ahead and be talking about a T-Splost project for it. Tim – the potential problem with the project is the line that has deteriorated. Have to be careful there. Jeff – Do you think we should go on down to the catch basin? Tim – yes. Mayor Daniels – The Public Works RFQs have been advertised. I think the deadline to submit is September 15th. Police Dept has been issued yellow tags to put out. Chief Finch – They are cleaning it up, but then they put it in front of vacant houses. That’s an issue we need to discuss further. (conversation ensued) CM Mahone – talked about the height of the blades on the lawn mowers and the pulleys, etc. Jeff – advised that it had a lot to do with the age of the mowers as well. Mayor Daniels – So should we buy some more? CM Moore – That’s a lot of money. Jeff – Actually whoever bids on these contracts is supposed to have their own equipment. You don’t have another month of grass season, so it might be a good idea to load them up and take them to someone to go through them from top to bottom that way you do have them just in case.

1. Planning & Recreation – Mayor Daniels – Veteran’s Day Nov 9th. ROTC from MCHS, possibly 2 speakers, and Flint Energies will sponsor. Looking for more sponsors. CM Moore donated $400.00 to go towards the wood for making the city park safer and replacing the railroad ties, etc.
2. Downtown Development Authority – CM Moore – I will send a formal version of my report. Christmas Parade is in pre-planning. There will be a scarecrow competition. This will be in partnership with the Garden Club. They will be putting up nice ornaments (large) on the posts downtown. There will be 2 more street markets in September. I will send out dates once I get more information. CM Daniels – I need to know about the board members and all. Dates of parade need to get to the chief of police in time to get paperwork sent in.
3. Grants Committee – Mayor Daniels – went to RVRC meeting and there is a grant for transit coming out and I would like to get that for Oglethorpe. Also, a grant for parks and trails that I would like to get involved in as well. CM Moore – Myself and

CM Harrison will be meeting to work on a 501 Status outside of being a municipality. We don’t qualify for some grants because we don’t have that status. This would allow us to get some of the private grants with this. Also, with the age of our Fire Truck, I’ve done some research and I may have found some opportunities on the Federal Level where we may be able to replace our truck. I think we may have another 5 years of good life. I’d like to start now because it takes a year just to get the truck once it’s ordered. Chief Finch has some information he will send over as well. CM Woodard – I know Fire Trucks are expensive and I have spoken with the chief over in Butler and I know that they are getting ready to put 2 out of service…. They are like 2015. I know a new one is around $700K. Might be something we could use.

1. Connectivity Committee - CM Beckum(absent) left report from the recent Quarterly Meeting with the County/City Meeting. CM Moore added a shout out on the over 300 new jobs would be coming in with the new business coming to Montezuma.
2. Building Maintenance Committee – CM Mahone - August 15th we had a meeting with the director of the Senior Citizen Building. Determined that Council on Aging was responsible for the upkeep of the building. In the last week they have started going down the check list and getting things up to code. On November 7th, Mr. Norman Graves will be coming back to update. On December 5th Mr. Graves will come back and we will decide if we will renew the contract with them. I advised them that I would be popping in just to see if things are continuing to be done. Now City Hall, the restrooms. There’s no hot water heater. My goal is to get all the plumbing fixed in this building. Get the restrooms painted and some tankless water heaters for hot water access. I will look at again before we leave today so that I can get it contracted out. Do we have an area for power supply for the tankless heaters, etc.? That will be my next project and then the Library. The door areas have some water damage. Will try to get some repairs done there. Also, the AC Unit at the Senior Center has been repaired. So, they are making steps. We should start seeing some dramatic improvements at the Senior Center. CM Woodard – Do you have a time table for your project at City Hall for starting? CM Mahone – I am trying to see what kind of contractor I need to reach out to first, I will be checking before I leave today. (Electrician or just Plumbing). Mayor Daniels – in regards to the Senior Center, that is the Senior Center in Macon County. Mr. Graves did own up to the fact that they had neglected the building, but I have seen some improvements on the outside at least. Everyone comes here from all over the county. For City Hall, CM Moore mentioned a door, it’s just one, right? CM Mahone – yes in the men’s restroom. (more conversation ensued about the water line).

**New Business:**

1) Approval of Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Adoption Agreement to allow employees to

accrue benefits tax-free until retirement benefits are distributed to them – not vote taken

2) Approval for Fire Truck engine repair ($12K - $15K) – no vote taken

**Old Business:**

**Other Business:**

**Adjourn:** 6:58PM Mayor Daniels