CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 2, 2022 – 6:00PM

**Call to order:** 6:00PM by Mayor Hill

Council in Attendance: CM Mahone, CM Harrison, CM Coogle, CM Daniels, Pro-tem Cross

Dept Heads in Attendance: Clerk Melissa Jones, Utilities Jeff Harrison, Police Dept Officer Waller, and Attorney Jon Coogle

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** CM Cross

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve Agenda with additions of lines 8 & 9 under Old Business and line 1 under Other Business made by CM Daniels, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

**Approval of Minutes** from April 29, 2022 Emergency Called Meeting, May 5, 2022 Regular Council Session, and May 26, 2022 Council Work Session. Motion made by CM Cross, 2nd by CM Daniels, AIF

Recognitions of Guest(s): Mary Washington and Mary McMillian (Both absent)

**New Business:**

1) Mary Washington – driveway by Oglethorpe Cemetery. Old flowers and berries dropping from trees – no show

2) Mary McMillian – speed bumps - no show

3) Consolidation of the Oglethorpe Police Department with the Montezuma Police Department – CM Coogle asked what council’s thoughts were for the consolidation of police dept with Montezuma. CM Harrison, CM Daniels, and CM Cross did not approve of the consolidation. CM Cross advised that the biggest expense with the police dept. was the overtime as one officer averaged 80-90 hours per week. CM Harrison asked about the current agreement with Montezuma. Wanted to know if they were just going to send us a bill? CM Cross advised we never received anything in writing, no temporary agreement yet. Montezuma has been keeping up with the shifts they cover for Oglethorpe and that the 30 days had already past. Only agreement we have was verbal. CM Coogle – We could do something temporary to see how it works? CM Cross – We could lose our accreditation if we don’t do something soon. Attorney Coogle – yes we could. CM Daniels – If doing a temporary thing with Montezuma, we would have to look at everything, including chain of command, what council has a say in, etc. Attorney Coogle – If consolidation of departments, both councils will be involved, but Montezuma would be the responsible party. Montezuma’s police dept is understaffed again also. CM Cross – After next Tuesday we are down to one part-time officer. If we consolidate with Montezuma, how would it affect our municipality? Attorney Coogle – We would have separate municipalities; it wouldn’t change anything. CM Harrison – So the police officers would report to Montezuma? Attorney Coogle – yes. CM Harrison – I’m not ok with that. We currently offer $16 per hour and Montezuma offers $18 an hour. Cordele offers a sign-on bonus also. CM Cross asked Officer Waller what his thoughts were from a police officer’s standpoint. Officer Waller advised that our location was one of our biggest downfalls. His recommendation is that we get an Interim Chief immediately because once we consolidate the Oglethorpe Police Dept is gone and Montezuma would be in charge. Maybe a sign-on bonus would help. He said we need structure, a policy manual, and interim chief. Go up a dollar or two on pay rates and let the officers drive the city cars home. Officer Waller stated that we have an excellent facility and equipment. CM Cross – We said before that if we did not approve the consolidation that we needed to name an Interim Chief. Officer Waller has volunteered as well as the other person who helped with the interviews last. CM Coogle – We have got to get an agreement for coverage for so many months in writing. CM Mahone – I agree with Coogle. We don’t want “favors”, we need an agreement. CM Cross – 90 days – 120 days? CM Coogle – You want me to work on it? I can. The police dept budget is half of the entire city budget…. Motion made to request a 120 day agreement (if we can get that long) with Montezuma for police coverage made by CM Cross, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

4) Little Library for Oglethorpe from Flint Energies – Motion made to accept the Little Library from Flint Energies and put at the Oglethorpe City Park made by CM Cross, 2nd by CM Harrison, AIF

5) Add a line item to the 2023 City of Oglethorpe Budget to assist with programs/services ($150 per month) – Motion made to add Library line item to the 2023 Oglethorpe City Budget for stipend of $150.00 monthly to assist with reading programs made by CM Harrison, 2nd by CM Cross, AIF

6) Sponsorship of 2 Oglethorpe youth for the MCRD summer camp – Georgia Constitution Gratuity Clause states cannot do this. – no motion

7) Move monthly Work Sessions from 5:30PM to 6:00PM – No vote – council all in agreement to make the change.

8) Police Dept – Motion was made to allow Officer Waller drive a city police dept car home as he only lives 37 miles away made by CM Cross, 2nd by CM Harrison, AIF

9) Know Your Charter Training – Attorney Coogle will advise a Saturday that works for Oglethorpe, Montezuma, and Ideal Council. He would like to do the presentation in the Business Center and have lunch. He will email all once a date is set.

**Old Business:**

1) Business Center Rental Agreement – CM Mahone questioned the fee waiver. Attorney Coogle advised there should not be a fee waiver as the building is not for free. Fee Waiver form trashed and not valid. Motion was made to approve the Business Center Rental Agreement (attached) with paragraph 2 on the second page deleted (waiver) and the addition of the capacity number (received from the Fire Chief and Building Inspector) made by CM Harrison, 2nd by CM Coogle, AIF

**Other Business:**

**1)** HWR Monthly Report – Jeff Harrison advised they did the drain pipe on West Anderson street, cut back limbs from the road on Kaigler and Smith Roads. They are going to bush hog those roads next. They packed the holes at Riverview Lane. They did the water line for the Fire Dept. We will need a plumber to come in to finish. They are going to get the limbs from around the basketball court and the road beside it next week. They bladed King Circle. We had an EPD Inspection at the waste water plant yesterday (06/01/2022). It went pretty well only had a few paperwork issues. Got dinged for the high iron content at the prison well, even though they said the water was crystal clear. Will work with the fire dept and Chris Fox at the prison to set up a flushing system. We got dinged for the pump not working at the booster station. Jeff will get with CCA to see if it can be fixed and get a quote. EPD will send us a letter for corrective action. CM Harrison asked about other projects we plan to do. Jeff advised that the Railroad St project was next on the list. He’s hired a local part time guy that he may move up to full time soon. We will need to get two new front tires for the back hoe as well.

**Adjourn:** 7:06PM by CM Coogle