CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

 COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 5, 2022 – 6:00PM

Call to order: Mayor Hill 6:00PM

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

Dept Heads in Attendance: City Clerk & Supervisor Melissa Jones, Fire Chief Owen Childs, City Attorney Jon Coogle

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: CM Harrison

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by CM Harrison, 2nd by CM Daniels, AIF

Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2022 Regular Council Session and April 28, 2022 Council Work Session – Motion made by CM Cross, 2nd by CM Daniels, AIF

Recognitions of Guest(s): Freddie Golphin, Nathalie Bradley, Jerome Hannor, and Mary McMillian

New Business:

1) Freddie Golphin – trash pick-up on Stewart and Mill Streets (no show)

2) Nathalie Bradley – Stop signs on Baker St. – Baker Street goes from Chatham to Randolph. There has been lot’s of speeding the last few months and I’m concerned that someone or some animal is going to get hit. I think a lot is Dollar General traffic. You can hear people after the Cuyler Street stop sign revving their engines all the way to the end of the street. It seems some vehicles are going at least 50 mph. I was thinking of suggesting that Anderson and Church Streets have 4 way stop signs. So people would have to stop at multiple intervals instead of speed bumps. This is just something that I wanted to put out there because I know that we don’t have a big enough police dept to patrol every single side street. Mayor Hill- What about signs? Maybe “slow” signs. CM Coogle – I don’t think people are going to pay any attention to that. CM Cross – We can ask the police on duty to sit and monitor that street? Maybe this would help. Nathalie – I didn’t think to check before I came here tonight, but I don’t think there’s even a speed limit sign posted in that direction. There’s one coming from Randolph towards town, but not the other direction. It’s supposed to be 35 mph. CM Harrison – Maybe track and monitor for 30 days. CM Cross – I will send Macon, Baker, and Randolph streets to the officers for monitoring.

3) Jerome Hannor – Limbs and no code enforcement – Anna Drive, Mill St., and Railroad St. Anna Drive has trees growing up in the road. Two cars can’t go down the street at the same time. Litter is thrown out everywhere. There’s no street sign on Anna Drive. On Railroad St. someone has painted over the Stop Sign. No one is inspecting the roads. On Mill St. there is a trailer that burned up 6 months ago and still sitting there. We don’t want that over there. Houses are running down over there. Pot Holes on all the streets. They just put down asphalt. CM Harrison – We just did that, it’s temporary. We have future plans. I’ll send the guys over to check overgrown limbs on Anna. CM Cross – Fire Dept Chief Childs recently found the street signs that were ordered years ago, so just a matter of fitting getting the signs put back up worked into the crew’s schedule. Mr. Hannor – What about the limbs and trash? They don’t show up for months. I called here and let them know more than once. CM Harrison – For the brush and limb pick up there is a schedule stating the week of the month that your street will be picked up. The old guys did a better job. CM Harrison – The schedule for that isn’t perfect, but we are working on it. Mr. Hannor – Bradley St. there’s no sign. CM Coogle – Yes, there are limbs everywhere at this time, but we are definitely taking strides in the right direction. Overall, the new crew is doing a better job. Melissa Jones – I agree yes you have called to let us know about your limbs, but I can say overall since I’ve been here there are way fewer calls. Mr. Hannor – I know the calls are coming from out side of town because they never go there. Melissa Jones – No sir, the calls that I receive are from all parts of the city. But what I will say is on your week of pick-up per the schedule, if they don’t show up the whole week, give me a call first thing the following Monday morning and I will have them come by immediately. The schedule is not perfect, nor is our contractor, but they have done a great job since they’ve been here. Mr. Hannor – There’s just so much junk over there in that area. I don’t think they ride over there area. CM Harrison – so that and the trailer is a code enforcement issue. CM Cross – And we are working on that with David Parrott trying to get something done. We understand and hear you and we are working on a plan to get this done. Attorney Coogle is working on a plan also to review and rewrite the policy for a fee schedule for the fines. CM Harrison – so no sign at Bradley street also? Mr. Hannor – yes. CM Harrison – I’ll talk with the guys and get these 4 items addressed. It’s not going to be fixed overnight, but definitely going to improve. I will get with our public works team and we will do better. I hear you with that side of town and that it gets neglected and I would have to agree. We will work on that and we will fix it. Mr. Hannor – Do any of you drive over on that side of town? I do (CM Harrison, Melissa) Mr. Hannor to Melissa – Where do you drive down there? Melissa – I’ve driven down Railroad St. to Stewart and then around the curve back over the railroad tracks. I don’t know the name of the roads and never know where I’m coming out at, but have driven them several times just checking on things. Mr. Hannor – And what do you see? Melissa Jones – Sometimes there’s piles of limbs, but not many. And then I have seen the trees growing over the top of the roads. Mr. Hannor – you’re right and then there’s the grass. You can’t even walk over there. CM Harrison – and that’s part of code enforecement. We are working on defining the role and contracting with the county enforcer to make these things happen. (Problem properties, etc.) We are not ignoring the issue, but it’s a huge problem and we don’t have the work force to handle it. We have a lot going on. Chief Childs – advised they are already working on a plan to start taking care of some of these issues as well. Mr. Hannor – I have a fence by my house and the neighbors tree limbs are pushing it over. Can ya’ll do something about that? CM Harrison – I’ll give you my phone number. You can call me and fuss. You can still call Melissa, but that’s my committee and we can talk it through.

4) Mary McMillian – Speed Bumps on Kaigler (no show)

5) Youth Leadership Macon Co – Flint Energies to host at Oglethorpe City Hall May 11th, 2022 from 10:30AM-11:30AM (CM Daniels) – Hannah Sloan asked if they could use our chambers for the youth program for about an hour. Melissa advised that there was nothing scheduled for the Council Chambers for the time requested and there would not be a problem with the Youth Leadership Macon Co/Flint Energies group using the room. No vote needed. All agreed.

5) GICH Program committee representative (Jill Harrison) – CM Harrison volunteered herself to be the representative for Oglethorpe. CM Daniels – Nathalie mentioned traveling when she came and spoke about this program. So you’ll bring the information back to us and let us know what’s going on? CM Harrison – yes. CM Cross – I think that with that being said, because with the IRS link I think that we should have a budget that you have to do that within so that we are financially secure with it. CM Harrison – I wanted to go to the first meeting to kind of see how often that would happen so that I could get an estimate of how much travel it would be because I’m busy, too. I’ll come back with a projected budget for that. CM Cross – Where is the first meeting? CM Harrison – I was going to reach out to Angie Matthews because she’s the rep for this area, but I haven’t had a chance yet. CM Cross – I’m just wondering how much money we are talking about. Motion to appoint Jill Harrison as the Oglethorpe Representative for the GICH program made by CM Cross, 2nd by CM Coogle, AIF

6) WCGCAC (West Central) vendor agreement with Oglethorpe to assist with water bills. (CM Harrison) I have received a couple of calls from irate Oglethorpe residents who had tried to call West Central to get assistance with their water bills to find out that we are not participating in that program. So I called West Central just to get clarity on that program and they said it’s a simple application that I shared with Melissa. Once we fill out our portion that pretty much just verifies that we are a municipality, that we offer drinking and waste water. Once we complete we send it back to the state. It’s a pretty fast approval and then we are listed as a vendor so that our residents can call and get approved based on income qualifications to get assistance with their water bills. So it’s not client facing on Melissa’s end at all. Once we fill out the application, that’s it, and we will start receiving checks for the people they have agreed to help. Melissa was like ok I can do that, so she was going to check with the state and with Montezuma because they were already in the process of doing this also. Melissa Jones – I have spoken with Montezuma and we will have to send in a list or something, which shouldn’t be that big of a deal. CM Harrison – Oh, ok. CM Cross – I will say that I have a history with West Central and we were on a vendor list and anyone we referred never received any type of assistance from them. Now I’ve been out of pocket with them for some time, but if there is money that is specifically awarded for our area to West Central, I want to make sure that we know what that amount is so that it is not absorbed somewhere else. Do you know what I’m saying? CM Harrison – I do. CM Cross – The past could have been done under a different administration and thankfully everything now is done digitally. But we never had any luck with them helping anyone. CM Harrison – That is quite the opposite experience I heard from former Mayor of Marshallville Valarie Davis. She said a lot of her people got help. CM Cross – Like I said it’s been some years and that was just my experience and they could be under a different administration now. CM Harrison – And I think Covid changed the game a lot too. CM Cross – As long as the clerk or the ladies at city hall aren’t yelled at if someone doesn’t receive the assistance they requested from West Central. CM Harrison – Thank you Melissa.

Old Business:

1) Revised Business Center Rental Agreement – (CM Harrison) This may not need to be on here just yet. TABLE UNTIL JUNE 2022.

2) Need plan for opening and securing the Business Center after Cindy’s normal work hours. (For example: when Montezuma is covering) CM Daniels – Does she have a schedule? Melissa – yes she has a schedule. CM Daniels – We could all just take turns. Council will assist.

3) Macon County Development Authority representative for Oglethorpe. Motion to appoint Jimmy Bray as the Oglethorpe Rep for the MC Development Authority made by CM Coogle, 2nd by CM Cross, AIF

Other Business:

1) Temporary pay change for part time officers working full time hours. (CM Cross) I was approached by part time officers and asked if they could be paid full time pay while working full time officers? (Leisa thought a $2.00 difference an hour, but only $1.00) Part Time is $15.00 per hour and Full Time is $16.00 per hour. Waller and Murillo. CM Harrison – so if they work over 40 hours they get 1.5 for anything over right? CM Cross – They would get paid the $16.00 hr rate and get time and a half for overtime. CM Daniels – You’re saying temporary and if more officers come in, they are willing to have their upgrade taken back? CM Cross – Yes, this is just temporary. That was exactly what was asked “temporarily”. I called Melissa and asked if this was financially doable and she said yes. We just needed council’s approval. CM Mahone – So how are they being paid now? CM Cross - $14.00 per hour. CM Mahone – So if they work overtime, that’s all they get paid? CM Cross – because they are part time and normally don’t work full time. They are not asking for benefits or anything. CM Harrison- Do any of our part timers work over 40 per week? CM Cross – Part time right now is 35 hours per week. CM Harrison – Scratch the request for right now. Say if someone works 36 hours, are they then paid 21 per hour because that’s overtime? CM Cross – No. CM Harrison – Ok, that’s what I was trying to assess. Melissa Jones – Let me correct. The police dept is paid differently than us. They work 42 REGULAR HOURS one week and 43 REGULAR HOURS the next week. Anything over that is considered overtime and they would receive time and a half pay. CM Harrison – and that is applicable to part time as well. Melissa – Well until now they never worked overtime. CM Mahone – So they will get paid overtime as well as the increase. CM Cross – Yes, now they are having to work the hours to cover all of the shifts. CM Harrison – Ok, you just answered my question. Motion to Temporarily Increase the part time police officers pay to $16.00/hr until council decides to change back made by CM Coogle, 2nd by CM Daniels, AIF (CM Cross – Melissa can you make that effective on our next pay check/current week? Melissa- Yes)

2) Recognize National Public Works Week May 15-21 2022 – CM Harrison – a few months back I stumbled upon this information. The theme for 2022 is Ready and Resiliant. I know our public works team is contracted, but I think we should implement this as this is the heart beat of our city. I would like maybe a little luncheon, FB post, etc. I’m kind of tapped out on ideas. CM Cross – I think if we did something sweet, simple, and not very costly – maybe a luncheon or something like that. I think they do a great service, but they are still a contractor and we don’t need to spend a lot of extra money. CM Harrison – It isn’t so much the money, but I hear you. CM Cross – But I agree we should do something. Maybe something more than pizza. CM Harrison – What do you think CM Daniels and Mahone? CM Daniels – We could do a luncheon? I could get some little daily things made for them also. CM Cross – I don’t mind cooking a meal and absorbing the cost. CM Mahone – When did you say this was. CM Harrison – restated. CM Coogle – Just one day during the week should be good. CM Daniels – Just a small token daily, like a candy bar or something. I’ll take care of it. CM Harrison – Usually Wednesday or Thursday is when I meet with them as that’s the best for them. That also kind of goes into, I wanted to thank Melissa, I didn’t know that today is recognized as GMA’s Clerk day. Melissa – It was the whole week (laughing). But ya’ll kind of did. I received your flowers and they are very pretty. Thank you all. CM Cross – Wednesday I will not be able to cook.

Mayor Hill- Does council have anything else they need to bring up?

CM Cross – We may need to go back and see if other guests came in. (They didn’t)

Mayor Hill – Chief Childs you have anything?

Chief Childs – About 2 months ago we got quotes for a certain brand of turn out gear, but now that company isn’t selling that gear any longer. My rep is trying to see if we can still get it as it was kind of in process. We are trying to get a Fire Safety program started here and Crisp County will let us use their materials for free since I work for them full time. CM Cross – Chief at our last work session I tried my best to explain about 12 suits v/s 18 suits. How many of your paid guys have suits here? Would 12 gears take care of you? Chief Childs – This is what I have here. I’ve got some guys who need to get certified, but will have to have compliant gear to receive their certification. Class will be here pretty soon. On the other hand, I have certified guys who do not have compliant gear. We are in a bad spot right now because we haven’t had new gear since 2003. If we had some just a year or so out of date, we could work with it. I have about 19 guys and 15 are certified. Thankfully a lot of the new guys are already on other departments and they have compliant gear with those departments. They are using that gear here with the understanding that Oglethorpe will have to replace the gear if something happens to it on a call here. That was worked out prior to me coming in. CM Coogle – Do we need that many firefighters? Chief Childs – For a structure fire, you have to have 2 on the inside and 2 on the outside, if the ones’ on the inside go down, to go get them. If something goes bad, you need more. If a man goes down in a house, you need 4 or 5 other guys to get them out. The fires I’ve worked here, we would have about 7 on the scene and it would take everything in us to get it taken care of, but now we aren’t having to kill ourselves to contain a fire. CM Cross – So you’re telling me how many guys are using their gear from another department? Chief Childs – Pretty much all of them. I don’t have any gear here. I use my gear from City of Montezuma. We have a couple of guys here who don’t have compliant gear and if they get hurt… we are going to end up paying somebody. CM Cross – So with the 12 new will you be ok? Chief Childs – yes. The one’s who have nothing at all and the ones who are not compliant are the ones I want to outfit first. Mayor Hill- How many would you be able to acquire? Chief Childs – I have 2 companies quoting us for the gear we need. The pricing was close. Even if we can’t get the one’s we were originally quoted, I will have to go with the other guy. CM Harrison – If we go with Fisher Scientific, it would be @ $2K more than the $3600/set that was originally discussed. CM Cross – Can you explain why they can’t wear the same gear or leave it at the fire station? Chief Childs – you have to have your own gear. Most of us carry it in our personal vehicles so that no matter where we are, we have the gear on us and don’t have to come to the station first to get it. Saves a lot of time. CM Coogle – What do we do if we outfit a guy and he decides 3 months down the line that he no longer wants to be a fireman? Chief Childs – You can order the gear tailor fit for each specific guy or you can order general sizes which is the direction we are heading. CM Coogle – So they can turn their stuff in if they quit. Chief Childs – Absolutely. They have 30 days to turn in their gear or we can take legal action. CM Coogle – What does the gear consist of? Chief Childs – boots, pants, coat, no-mex hood, gloves, and helmet. CM Harrison – So instead of $43K, we are looking more like $50K? Chief Childs – I’m trying to see – waiting on a couple new quotes. CM Cross – Do you have an update on the brush truck? Chief Childs – I went out there a couple of days ago and they still had not put the new motor in it. I reiterated the importance/urgency of getting this done. Mayor Hill – I just wanted to say that when we had that Oglethorpe Day that the fire station looked great and I want to thank everyone for making Oglethorpe Day a huge success. Thank you Jill as you lead a lot of it. CM Harrison – It was a team effort. You were a trooper, too.

Adjourn: motion made by CMCoogle, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF 7:00PM