CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 – 6:00PM

**Call to order:** Mayor Pro-Tem Cross at 6:00PM

Council and Dept Heads in Attendance: CM Harrison, CM Coogle, CM Mahone, CM Daniels, City Clerk Melissa Jones, City Attorney Jon Coogle, Interim Chief of Police Eric Finch, Officer Josh Harris

Council not in attendance: Mayor Hill

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** CM Harrison

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made to approve Agenda as is CM Coogle, 2nd CM Daniels, AIF

**Approval of Minutes** from August 4, 2022 Regular Council Session and August 25, 2022 Work Session – Motion made by CM Coogle, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

Recognitions of Guest(s): Mary Millian, Freddie Golphin, Madison Porter, Steven Harris, Gloria Stewart

**New Business:**

1) Mary Millian – speed bumps on Kaigler Street - absent

2) Freddie Golphin – Police Dept. - The people of Oglethorpe are worried about the Chief of Police position and the Police Dept. I know that Chief Finch has temporarily taken over and things are going good for now. But,

what are we going to do? Chief Finch – Montezuma is running at full staff with 3-4 officers each shift plus Josh in Oglethorpe. He is rotating supervisors over here to assist Josh with calls if needed. We are here every day.

We’ve rebuilt Oglethorpe’s police office and have 3 in the academy now. We plan to do FTO training, reporting training, etc. Mr. Golphin – What is the timeline for getting our own chief? CM Cross – That is on the agenda

to be discussed tonight.

3) Madison Porter – Police Dept. – I don’t have a big problem with the police dept. The contract is temporary correct? CM Cross – Yes. The thing of concern for me is like the DDA with the golf cart parade. We should be

more diverse in the future. Need to throw off the yolks weighing us down. Council should be out doing something. Does DDA have full autonomy? City Attorney Coogle – There’s nothing monetary from the city for DDA.

They are appointed by council. Mr. Porter – Diversity needs to be first. We have a lily- white payroll right here. My own people need to be making some of my tax dollars.

4) Steven Harris – Police Dept. - absent

5) Gloria Stewart – Stub Street tree branches – Overgrown trees are hanging over the street lights on Stubbs St. Can the city cut them back or something? CM Coogle – That’s a big problem not only in the city, but also in the

county. CM Mahone – The light there is blocked by trees? Ms. Stewart – Other streets have been cut back, but that’s the only street that has not been cut back. Does council ride the streets through the city? (council advised

yes, they do). CM Coogle – I rode through some just today. CM Mahone – If we can do something, we will. CM Cross – The trees overgrowing the street lights would be Georgia Power’s responsibility, not the cities. That

would be a safety hazard for the city guys. Have you called Georgia Power? Ms. Stewart – Yes and Georgia Power left a notice on my door with instructions on how to prune the trees. I just want to make sure that you all are

riding through other than when it’s election time. CM Harrison – If you can get me the exact location, I don’t mind giving them a call.

6) Motion to approve a Time Line for the police dept contract with Montezuma: CM Cross – we are into 90 days left of the 120-day agreement. Attorney Coogle you advised that the agreement needs to be witnessed and

notarized? CA Coogle – yes it does. So, it will have to be re-signed so that it can be notarized and witnessed at the same time. CM Cross – I had an idea (after last meeting) that we could put up a solid wall at the Business

Center in the kitchen to separate the evidence room from the public. I spoke with Chief Finch about it already and he said that should work. It’s also the most cost- effective route. Chief Finch – I had it rekeyed already and

I looked at it while I was down there yesterday and it would take someone a good bit of time to get into that gate. It should be ok for a little while. I will have my 2nd person look at it tomorrow to make sure a wall would be

ok. CM Cross – The current contract expires the first of November. CM Daniels – asked Chief Finch what timeline would work for him, what all needs to be done? Chief Finch – We have done a lot already. I talked with

Cindy yesterday as we are putting reports in Montezuma’s side for Oglethorpe and she doesn’t have to retype them. She just has to enter the Name and Case number and then attach a dummy file that Ms. Williamson sends

over to her. Whatever time y’all decide is fine with us. CM Daniels – I was thinking 6 months to a year. Or do we go 14 months? Chief Finch – I want y’all to adopt our policies. Oglethorpe doesn’t even have a policy book

do they Officer Harris? (Josh – no). I can send you all a copy and you can have your city attorney review. Those issues need to be addressed. CM Harrison – The cadets coming in, when will they be done at school? Chief

Finch – 11 weeks. CM Harrison – So I’m thinking the timeline should be like April of 2023. Chief Finch – That’s if they pass. CM Cross – City Attorney Coogle, you’ve reviewed the documents that he wants us to adopt?

City Attorney Coogle – not recently, but yes. CM Cross – I feel like our attorney has reviewed the documents and we need to adopt Montezuma’s Policies. And we will need to ask Montezuma about the time frame. Chief

Finch – I’ll tell you what they are going to say. They are going to ask me if I want to do it? Since I have Captain Hill now – it’s doable because there’s not so much on me. Motion made to approve a Time Line of a 14 month

(February 2024) contract with the Montezuma Police Dept made by CM Mahone, 2nd by CM Coogle. CM Daniels in favor – CM Cross and CM Harrison opposed.

7) Motion to approve Ms. Cindy moving to City Hall: Tabled (research needed on the USDA Grant that paid for the Business Center / Police Department refurbishment last)

8) Motion to approve $600.00 for Roy Yoder to re-mount the weather head with brackets at the gym (emergency job) (pending receipt of license and w/c insurance info) made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Mahone, AIF

9) Motion to approve leaving the Evidence Room at the Business Center and building the concrete wall up to the ceiling to separate from common areas made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Mahone, AIF

**Old Business:**

**Other Business:**

1) 120 Day Agreement drawn up by City Attorney Jon Coogle with specifics and details. – CM Cross asked City Attorney Jon Coogle if he could draw up the contract (14 Month) and make it legal for both cities? Attorney

Coogle said that he would.

2)Unsung Community Hero Award presented to Josh Mathis for stepping up to help clean the graffiti off the wall on Asbury Street prior to school starting.

**Adjourn:** Motion made by CM Coogle, 2nd Mahone, AIF 6:45PM