CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

JANUARY 6, 2025 – 6:00PM

Call to order: Mayor Daniels - 6:00PM

**Department Head Reports: (All should have been emailed prior to meeting)**

1. City Clerk, Melissa Jones – report emailed to council prior to meeting.
2. Police Dept – Cindy Kleckley (regular council meeting) / Chief Breletic – Advised that the police dept was in need of 2 handheld radios at @ $750.00ea. The county will be going to a digital system soon and the radios we are looking at will be able to be used with digital. 911 currently reaches out to me on my cell phone. I plan to reach out to previous employees to request any equipment that they may have that belongs to the city of Oglethorpe. We will review serial numbers, etc. We are missing holsters, radios, etc. CM Woodard questioned the radio in the Chief’s police vehicle. Chief Breletic – not in good shape at all. We are going through all vehicles and equipment and assessing everything and verifying what needs to be done. There is a tv missing from the police dept. also. CM Moore – It will probably take a good 60 days to have a good assessment of everything. The evidence room has been turned over to him. Planning to work with David Parrott in regards to the dilapidated buildings in the city. Put a list together and come back before council with it. I will get with the city attorney to make sure we follow protocol as well. CM Moore – to add to that, before the February meeting, I will email everyone a copy of the Blighted Taxation program that I’ve been working on and send to our attorney as well for review. We can review and have in effect by March or April. Mayor Daniels – Are you all targeting the downtown businesses as well? Chief Breletic – We are targeting the entire city. Mayor Daniels – Good, we have some that could use some work. Chief Breletic – Maybe have some youth groups come in and help as well. We are working to get Ms. Cindy moved back down to the police dept as well. Waiting on quote from IT (Neos). There is one phone line already there. Mayor Daniels – I think the radios are pretty important. CM Moore – Yes and as the amount falls below the required threshold for vote, we were just advising and not asking for a vote. I want to make sure all of council is informed. (conversation ensued in regards to relocating Ms. Cindy’s computer and IT). CM Harrison – I just wonder why our computers were not used by our officers? CM Moore – They basically shut down our building and had our officers use the computers in Montezuma.
3. Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month
4. Water/Sewer/Streets - HWR Jeff Harrison advised they had replaced a 2” water main in the ally on Sumter St. Concrete will be needed to fix the curb. Not something HWR does. Cole repaired a 2” water main at Oakwood Dr. twice this past week. (residents continue to run it over as they put a driveway over the line). Highway 49 they fixed a 1” line, fixed a leak on Mill St. and Keen Ave. Checked out a line on Stewart St. Fixed the chemical feed line at the water plant. Replaced some meters. The city did secure another $2.6M from ARPA for the Waste Water Plant. Recon should begin in February and project start in March. The GEFA loan that was secured may be used on upsizing sewage line on Anna Drive. CM Harrison – Do you think this would be a 2025 project? Jeff – Maybe. CM Harrison – Are you worried about EPD compliance for waste water plant? Jeff – not really because we show a big effort of getting the work done.
5. Fire Department – report emailed monthly – Chief Childs

**Council/Committee Reports: (All should have been emailed prior to meeting)**

1. Mayor Daniels - nothing
2. Human Resources/Finance – CM Harrison/CM Woodard - nothing
3. Public Safety – CM Moore – touched on report that was turned in. 149 calls to 911. These are the calls that actually affect Oglethorpe. Broke down citations. Our officers are out and about and their presence is being seen. Citations are being written. $61K for the year. Total number of persons on probation in Oglethorpe is 30. I would like to talk about Technology Fees. A lot of cities add this fee to their fines and these monies goes towards paying for new technology for the police department so that the city does not have to foo the bill. I will get more information for you prior to the next meeting. Mayor Daniels – On the probation community service hours, can we use a couple of them. Chief Breletic – briefed on it. Basically, the one in charge of them would have to be in law enforcement. (conversation ensued). Chief Breletic – There were charges to the confiscated fund account to pay persons personal credit cards. We have contacted PNC and found the 2 individuals name and are working with the bank to have the monies put back in the account. We will continue to work on this case. They were able to just use account numbers without having a bank card or anything. A big thank you to Ms. Melissa and the ladies of city hall for their help researching this. CM Moore – The bathrooms all work in the police department now. Phones are working. Once computer system is up and running, Ms. Cindy will be back down at the Police Dept. We are still having the issue with the mold in the old patrol car. We need additional personnel. Another full -time police officer. We are looking to remove the overtime by possibly moving the police officers pay period to by weekly. Chief Breletic – in a two- week period, an officer can work 86 hours regular time without overtime. This would only affect police officers and not administration. Mayor Daniels – The city clerk will need to sit down with Chief Breletic to make sure this works. Otherwise I’ve had all good feedback for the Police Department. CM Moore – The chief has come up with a timesheet for the officers to use. He will go over that with the city clerk as well. Mayor Daniels – I would like a debriefing for those meetings, please.
4. Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison – We got $6.34M for Waste Water Plant upgrade. Pre-construction planning meeting prior to next work session. Railroad St. – Tim is reaching out to smaller companies and we will do another bid opening. May Rd – plans submitted. Waiting on approval. GDOT said to go ahead and move forward. Will check on ad. Blue Tag submitted estimate for clearing May, Glen, and Jack Road. No need to vote yet. I drafted inter-governmental agreement with the county for those roads with the county for the bush-hogging. They just wanted it in writing. We need GDOT to look at the curb on Sumter St. Ms. Melissa has reached out to them.

A) Blue Tag Tree Service – Cemetery, Christmas Lights, getting garbage up at waste water plant. It’s been a lot. City Clerk – When will the Christmas lights be taken down? Damian – Whenever you need it. City Clerk – Just get with Kyron and whatever yall can work out is good. Mayor Daniels – How has locking the gate at the dumpster area been working out? Damian – It’s a lot better. City Clerk – Kyron opens its during the week from around 9AM – 3PM. CM Harrison – Mr. Hubbard has changed the pickup to 3 weeks and does special pick ups on the 4th week. Mayor Daniels – Let’s pus that on social media, the window during water bills, etc. CM Harrison – The cemetery is looking good and thank you for what you did out there. The other will be done in phase 2? (yes)

B) Mahone Lawn Care – got the hedges at entry way to the cemetery cleaned up. About 80% done. A little more to do. Might need some pressure washing on the brick. There are a few dead trees up along side the road. Looks like someone was cutting those. (Blue Tag) Front of City Hall needs pressure washing. CM Moore concerned with that as some of the wood is dry-rotted. There’s still some trash at the waste water plant on both sides of the drive that really needs to be cleaned up. I will need a purchase order number to get straw for the front of city hall. CM Harrison – When is your next schedule utility strip? March? (yes)

1. Planning & Recreation – CM Woodard – Thank you to all who came out for the Christmas Event. Hopefully we can build up from there and make it bigger. CM Moore – I do have a video to drop, just haven’t had a chance yet. CM Woodard – No update on the wood for the park, yet. CM Harrison – We really need suggestions on what we can do about the basketball court. The boards keep getting shot out, busted out, etc. Chief Breletic – I would like to meet with some of the council in regards to this. I’ve reached out to people in the neighborhood and they like having a place for the kids to play. If we could get some lighting out there, that might would help. Some cameras, picnic tables, and maybe even some bbq areas.
2. Downtown Development Authority – CM Moore – I will send an email to Attorney Coogle to start the process to modernize the DDA. I want the members to be recertified by the council. I will send out a letter and have members of the DDA to appear before council next month and have a summary of there history with the DDA. It can go up for vote and add what we think we might need to add. I will send out the summaries once I receive them from the members. I would like to focus them more to the development of the downtown Sumter St. I would like to bring in visitors. I will work with DDA to set a 6 month strategy plan to move the DDA into the 21st century. Mayor Daniels – when we go to conventions each year, the DDA and the City are tight. I think it’s a good idea that we can intwine with our DDA. They do a really good job and I want to work together to make Oglethorpe even better.
3. Grants Committee – CM Moore/CM Harrison – CM Moore will soon have updates for the public safety grant. He did get a letter of recommendation from Senator Warnock and Congressman Bishops offices. Waiting on letter stating I’ve met all of the requirements. That would be for $1M grant.
4. Connectivity Committee - CM Beckum
5. Building Maintenance Committee – CM Mahone

**New Business:**

**Old Business:**

**Other Business:**

Mayor Daniels asked if we had a trash pick up schedule for downtown? CM Harrison advised

Tuesdays and Fridays. Mayor Daniels – Need to keep a close eye on it in regards to people emptying their whole cars into those cans… City Clerk – Maybe someone could contact the owner of the laundromat and have him put garbage cans back in there. He had some and only took them out because of Tim using them for a toilet. Now that Tim is no longer around there is no reason he couldn’t put some back in there for his customers to use. Mayor Daniels – I will check into it.

**Public Comments:**

**Adjourn: 7:02PM**