CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

OCTOBER 3, 2024 – 6:00PM

Call to order: 6:00PM

All Council was present. Department heads in attendance: Melissa Jones, Chief Finch, and Attorney Coogle.

**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) / Interim Chief Finch – gave report on 09/13/24 shooting on Asbury Rd in Oglethorpe and MCHS door shooting in Montezuma. (No kids were at the school when this happened.) The school needs to have someone to man the metal detectors, as well as the teachers follow protocol. Sometimes the doors are left unlocked. Department worked 22 hours during Hurricane Helene storm. Felt that the curfew was a great idea and that we were very blessed. The Christmas Parade application had been submitted to state. Faith In Blue is November 11-14, 2024. The Community Prayer that was hosted in Oglethorpe by local pastors was submitted as one of the events.
3. Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month
4. Water/Sewer/Streets - HWR Jeff Harrison – Advised that the city water never lost power during the hurricane. Tim Ingram, Melissa Jones, and himself had met with contractors today at 3:30PM to open the sealed bids that were submitted for the Waste Water Plant project. We had an EPD inspection last week and there were really no issues other than vegetation at the pond. All paperwork was in order. Any other issues were part of the Waste Water Plant project and would be fixed then. EPD did ask that HWR start keeping scheduled maintenance records for the equipment. CM Harrison asked if there was anything learned that we needed to take care of for possible weather issues in the future? Jeff – No, we replaced batteries ahead of time for the generators as well as fueled up the truck with diesel. Got trash cans emptied, etc.
5. Fire Department – report emailed monthly – Chief Childs

**Council/Committee Reports:**

1. Mayor Daniels -
2. Human Resources/Finance – CM Harrison/CM Woodard
3. Public Safety – CM Moore
4. Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison
5. Planning & Recreation – Mayor Daniels
6. Downtown Development Authority – CM Moore
7. Grants Committee -
8. Connectivity Committee - CM Beckum
9. Building Maintenance Committee – CM Mahone

**New Business:**

1) Waste Water Plant Bid Opening – Tim Ingram – We received 2 bids for the Waste Water

Plant project. Coggins Construction came in at $11.934 Million and Parish Construction

was $13.038 Million. We broke the bidding down into several different areas so that it

was very specific. After some discussion with Jeff, we could probably squeeze down to

$4.2 Million - $4.3 Million. Mayor Daniels – Really? Tim – Yes, the de-sludging of the

pond was $5.5 Million by itself; we found an alternate method earlier today that would be

$1.5 Million – using chemicals. It’s a process that’s been in Georgia about three years.

Seems to work fine. I don’t see us spending $5 Million to pump sludge out of the pond and

then carrying over to the land fill. Mayor Daniels – What’s the finance part of it? The city

has $3.375 Million from ARPA for construction and $796,900.00 Clean Water SRF 50/50

loan with 1.6% interest rate for 20 years. Which means 50% forgiveness. Costs the city @

$3,382.17 per month if we spend it all. This would be a total of $4.9 Million in funds for

the project. CM Harrison – And your goal is to have it down to $4.5 Million, correct?

Tim - We plan to have the Bid Tabulation ready on Tuesday and will make

recommendation to the city to vote on at next meeting. Jeff – If there are funds left over,

the city could buy an onsite generator at the Waste Water Plant that would benefit us

greatly if another big storm comes through. (discussion ensued) Tim advised that if the

contractor did not accept the alternate method for the sludge, then we would have to rebid.

Jeff – We still have permit. CM Harrison – So we are paying $3,800.00 per month for the

financing, that doesn’t include the increase in the electricity does it? Jeff – No. CM

Harrison – Is there any way to give us an idea what the increase would be? Tim – Melissa

and I talked about this a while back, but not sure off the top of my head. CM Moore –

Could we possibly use solar energy to do that? Jeff – It’s possible, but not my expertise.

You would have to do it on the side, not with this project. Tim – Yes, but the state of

Georgia has issued new restrictions on solar, so in 20-25 years when the life is gone from

these panels, you will be responsible for them.

CM Beckum asked if there was enough funding in our current revenue to cover the

electricity for the upgrade without raising rates and Ms. Jones advised should be. Jeff –

Advised that we don’t currently

charge “inside city limits” residents for meters, but we do charge those that we have to run

out of the city limits. Council can look into rate charges for meters, etc.

Tim – Also, your 2024 LRA project Railroad Street bid request has been turned into

Melissa. We will open on November 7th at City Hall at 1:30PM. May Road – The DOT

said they will do Hwy 49 and that we could go ahead and do what we need to do to May

Road right after Railroad.

CM Harrison – Back to the WWP. You don’t think we will be getting dinged by EPA for

not completing on time? Tim – No, I don’t think we are. We aren’t doing anything that is

going to take a great amount of time.

**Old Business:**

**Other Business:**

**Public Comments:**

1. Brenda Harvey – Thanked everyone who had something to do with getting the CDBG grant

back going. She’s already had 2 visits for inspection as well as picked her contractor.

2. Ms. Lee – Asked Chief Finch what he did about the kids shooting up the school? She said

they should be made an example of. She is concerned as to what will stop them from doing

this again. Chief Finch advised that they were arrested and taken to jail. He said this is a

national issue and legislatures are going to have to help as well. Ms. Lee asked why the

school couldn’t secure all of the doors except the one with the metal detector and just use it?

Chief Finch- Advised that the way the school was designed, kids were being dropped off by

cars and buses in different areas, so they come in and leave from designated areas. Mayor

Daniels advised that this conversation could be better discussed at a School Board Meeting.

**Adjourn:** 6:52PM