

City of Whigham
Council Meeting
August 10, 2021

The Whigham City Council met in regular session Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:00PM in the City Council Chambers at 105 W Broad Avenue, Whigham, Georgia with Mayor George Trulock presiding. The Mayor opened with a word of prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members of the Council present for roll call were: Dusty Brown, Jimmie Laing, Trey Gainous, Joel Singletary and Jim Sellers.

Others present were: Archway Professional Whitney Brannen, Utility Director Josh Ausburn, Chief Tony Black, James Whigham, Bryant Jenson, Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe representatives: Chief McCormick, Cherie Bryant and Jeanine McLean, and City Clerk Rachel Rogers.

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Jim Sellers to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Trey Gainous. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dusty Brown to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 minutes. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Trulock swore in Rachel Rogers as City Clerk with the Oath of Office from the City Charter.

Public Participation

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe – Chief McCormick addressed the Council about the Tribe seeking federal recognition. She stated being federally recognized would benefit the Tribe greatly and would open the door for federal funding for them, which could also benefit the Whigham School. They have received money recently for completing the research needed on the Tribe's background and to help with applying for this recognition. McCormick stated the Tribe first applied in 1978 and were denied because they did not have the supporting records and documents at that time. They believe they have all supporting documents needed now and are seeking a letter of support from the City of Whigham. When asked if they had spoken with anyone with City of Cairo or Grady County, McCormick stated no but was planning on meeting with Cairo City manager Chris Addleton. Cherie Bryant spoke briefly that the Tribe wanted to be an asset to Whigham and Grady County. She stated they had already spoken to a few Senators and feel it would be most helpful for local officials to back them. Mayor Trulock told the Tribe representatives he and the Council would take the situation under advisement and get back with them.

James Whigham- Mr. Whigham asked why we do not have sewer and is it something that is in the works. He wants to see growth and does not see it happening without a sewer system. Jim Sellers responded stating that we have inquired about different ways to make sewer happen but the cost is just too much... millions of dollars. Mr. Whigham said it is a need to benefit the City and he would like to see what options such as grants are available. Mayor Trulock stated that we would have to find money to

fund it because we can't put a financial burden on the customers. Mr. Whigham thanked the Council for allowing him to address the need.

Reports

Sunday Alcohol Sales Referendum- Hud's 5 has approached the Mayor about Sunday alcohol sales. They feel it would be good for them since it can be sold in Cairo on Sunday. Mayor Trulock and City Clerk Rogers informed the Council it was too late for the referendum to be on the ballot for the November election but we could hold a special election in March 2022 for a vote. She informed they will need to make a decision by the November Council meeting in order to run the call for election in the newspaper. The call for election must be made at least 90 days prior to the March 15, 2022 date.

New Business

New Bank Services- The Mayor told the Council we have sent out letters to each bank in Cairo, excluding the credit union, to see what services and rates they could offer the City since the bank bag is having to get taken to Cairo for each deposit already.

Comprehensive Plan Adoption- Regional Commission informed us it was time to adopt the Comprehensive Plan for 2021. **A motion was made by Trey Gainous to adopt the plan. Dusty Brown seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**

Water Rate Resolution- A resolution to increase the water rate 2.5% for the minimum monthly rate and price per thousand gallons after the first two thousand gallons was presented to the Council. The new rate/minimum charge would be \$10.48 for the first 2,000 gallons and \$2.32 per each additional thousand gallons. **A motion was made by Jim Sellers to adopt the increase. Trey Gainous seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**

A resolution was also completed to increase the water maintenance fee 2.5% for a monthly fee of \$8.20. **Joel Singletary made a motion to adopt the increase. Trey Gainous seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**

Garbage Rate- An ordinance was created by City Attorney Charlie Ferenchick for the garbage rate to be changed at the Council's discretion via resolution. The garbage rate was increased in the past by changing the ordinance each time. **Dusty Brown made a motion to adopt the change from updating the ordinance each time to adopting a resolution as the Council deemed fit. Trey Gainous seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**

A resolution to increase the garbage rates 2% for residential and commercial customers. Residential: \$18.01/month. Commercial container: \$55.71/month, 4 yard dumpster \$89.06/month, 6 yard dumpster \$133.71/month, and 8 yard dumpster \$178.10/month. **Jim Sellers made a motion to adopt the increase. Trey Gainous seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**

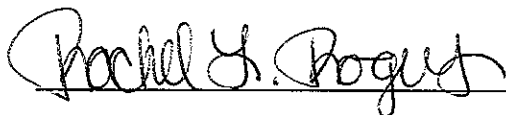
Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:31 PM by Trey Gainous. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Jim Sellers brought it to the attention of the Mayor and Council that we had skipped over the budget adoption. The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 6:31.

Mayor Trulock informed the Council the budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 needed to be adopted. **A motion was made by Trey Gainous to adopt the budget as presented. Dusty Brown seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:32 by Jim Sellers. The motion was seconded by Trey Gainous. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rachel G. Rogers", written over a horizontal line.

Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "Jim Sellers", written over a horizontal line.

Approved