

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2022

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at the Whigham City Council Chambers with Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers presiding. Sellers called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and opened the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Those present were: Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers, Robert Porter, Jimmie Laing, Andrew Walden, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn, Police Chief Tony Black, and City Clerk Rachel Jenson.

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Jimmie Laing to adopt the agenda. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes Adoption

A motion was made by Robert Porter to adopt the minutes from the June meeting. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Participation

David Addison requested to be put on the agenda in regard to the recent increase in water rates and the City Clerk stated she had spoken to Mr. Addison earlier that day and reminded him of the time of meeting, but he did not show up for the meeting.

Reports

Police Dept: Chief Black informed the Council that the new motor for the Ram 1500 would hopefully be ready by the end of the month or as soon as possible. A new one was having to be built because they do not make some parts for the motor for that model anymore. It is expected to cost be between \$6,000 and \$6,500.

Utilities Dept: Utilities Director Josh Ausburn informed the Council they had been making repairs, hanging transformers, and did upgrades on Cemetery Street. He has changed out some electric meters with the new Nighthawk meters and the water meters are coming in.

Robert Porter inquired about when the hole on 179 South from the prior water leak would be repaired. Ausburn stated they have been calling the asphalt plants but plants have not been using the mix they need and the schedules of the utility employees have not matched up with the asphalt mixing days. Mayor Pro Tem Sellers also mentioned a big wash out at the end of Larkin Street.

Mr. Porter also mentioned he had received a complaint about the sidewalks being an issue. Discussion was made about who owned the sidewalks, the City or the state. Ausburn stated the state relies on the City to maintain sidewalks.

City Hall: City Clerk Jenson informed the Council that early voting for the Sunday alcohol sales question for the November election would begin October 17th and would last for 3 weeks.

New Business

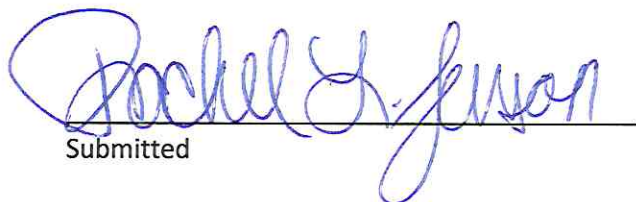
Employee Insurance Plan: The City Clerk told the Council that GMA had reached out to all health

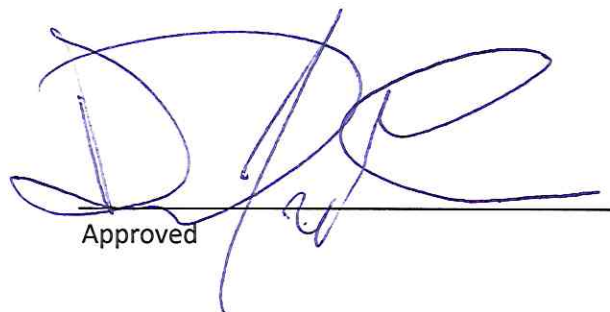
participating cities and are now offering more than one health insurance plan. Whigham was eligible for two, the current plan with a \$500 deductible or another with the same coverage and a \$750 deductible. The current plan premium is \$787 and the other plan premium is \$740. The Council inquired how many employees utilized the health insurance offered by the City. The City Clerk stated that six employees are covered and that if they changed to the new plan offered, the City would save \$47 per employee per month or \$3,384 annually. The Council asked the department heads what their thoughts were on the change. Jensen, Ausburn and Black both stated that they were all appreciative that the City covered the monthly premiums for employees and would not mind a slight increase they would have to pay out of pocket. **Jimmie Laing voted in favor to offer the employees the plan with the \$740 premium and \$750 deductible. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Council Matters of Interest

Robert Porter inquired with the City Clerk about the cemetery rates from surrounding areas that had been mentioned in prior meetings. The Clerk stated she had reached out to the City of Cairo and also with a cemetery in Climax about their rates which were significantly higher than Whigham's current rate of \$100 per lot. Ausburn stated there are also places that charge opening grave fees. The Council all agreed there needed to be a change in rate that would be discussed in the future.

With no other matters to tend to, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert Porter. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.


Submitted


Approved