



**City of Flowery Branch
City Council Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 6:00 PM
City of Flowery Branch City Hall
5410 Pine Street, Flowery Branch, GA 30542**



CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER:

Mayor Asbridge called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Asbridge and Council Members Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, and William McDaniel.

Also present were City Manager Tonya Parrish, City Clerk Shelia Cooper, Public Works & Utilities Director Bill Whidden, Finance Director Matthew Hamby, and City Attorney Ted Baggett.

Absent: Council Members Joseph Mezzanotte and Chris Mundy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Asbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

There was a motion made to approve the November 17, 2023, meeting agenda as presented.

MOTION: Joe Anglin

SECOND: William McDaniel

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel

NAYS: None

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS -WORK SESSION:

Presentation - Update: Wastewater Treatment Plant

Chris Carr from ESG Engineering presented a Wastewater Treatment Plant Update. Archer Western has been selected as Construction Manager at Risk. The design level is currently proceeding around 30% design level. CMAR developed the 30% baseline cost estimate. The first cost estimate came in around \$45M. The early work packages for critical needs are going to RFP before the year end. This includes the dewatering equipment replacement and EQ tank aeration and mixing equipment. They are working on permitting with GADOT for a second plant

entrance. Using the 30% cost estimate, adjustments for budget management are being made prior to 60% design completion.

Remaining Schedule:

- 60% Design – In progress, December 31, 2023 (Date extended due to Membrane Preselection Process timeline)
- 80% Design - February 5, 2024
- Construction NTP by **March 29, 2024**
- Substantial completion of **April 2026**
- Final completion of **June 2026**, including commissioning, startup and testing.

Council held a discussion with Mr. Carr on the updates he presented.

Consideration of Employee Insurance for Calendar Year 2024

Tammi Starkey with NFP presented calendar year 2024 employee insurance proposal. NFP completed a full market analysis of all viable carriers and the renewal with Anthem was negotiated to a 4% increase in premiums for 2024. The increase will not change employee contributions for 2024. There will not be a change to dental, vision or life insurance. There is no change to coverage or cost unless increasing in age bracket for voluntary coverages. Voluntary short-term disability recommendation to change plan design to offset the benefit payment by sick leave income. Increase to employee paid premiums is 15%. No change for flexible spending accounts, which allows employees to save pre-tax for medical, dental, vision, prescription expenses or dependent care expenses. Open enrollment will be December 11- 15, 2023. Employees are able to make elections and changes for 2024 plan year with onsite education and enrollment assistance. Enrollment elections will be made online, and the new elections will be effective January 1, 2024.

Council held a discussion with Ms. Starkey on the insurance proposals.

Consider First Reading of Ordinance 700 Amending the Charter of the City of Flowery Branch for more effective, efficient leasing of spaces.

City Attorney Baggett presented Ordinance 700 amending the Charter of the City of Flowery Branch for more effective, efficient leasing of spaces. State law provides very specific rules for how cities may lease their property but also contains a provision that allows cities with charter provisions governing how they lease property to prevail over the narrow state requirements. Adding this language to the city charter will grant the city greater flexibility in how it structures leases of city owned property. Leases of city property will continue to come before council for final approval.

Council held a discussion with City Attorney Baggett on Ordinance 700.

Consideration of FY2024 Vibrant Communities Grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts Grant Acceptance

Elias Gobble presented FY2024 Vibrant Communities Grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts Grant Acceptance in the amount of \$5,000 to be used for cultivating the growth of a vibrant and thriving community through art.

Mr. Gobble advised he was given a recommendation to apply for some grants provided by Norfolk Southern. Earlier this week Mr. Gobble was emailed that the City has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the police department to purchase a response readiness vehicle.

Council held a discussion with Mr. Gobble regarding these grants.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Clerk Report:

City Clerk Cooper advised the food drive was a success and thanked residents for bringing in items to donate to the Georgia Mountain Food Bank. City Clerk Cooper congratulated Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Mundy on winning their elections.

Finance Director Report:

Director Hamby advised the budget has a buffer for the increase in the insurance costs. The audit is complete and will be presented at the December 7th council meeting.

Public Works & Utilities Director Report:

Director Whidden reported the painting of the water tank is coming along and should be finished soon. He has had several citizens advise him how beautiful the city looks, and Director Whidden thanked Renee for all her hard work.

Council Report:

Council Member McDaniel wanted to thank citizens and staff.

Council Member Anglin congratulated Council Member Mundy and Council Member Mezzanotte.

ADJOURNMENT WORK SESSION:

Mayor Asbridge called the voting session to order at 6:30 p.m.

VOTING SESSION AGENDA

CALL VOTING SESSION TO ORDER:

Mayor Asbridge called the voting session to order at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Nackers, 5887 Screech Owl Drive, Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542

Mrs. Nackers wanted to thank the patrol officers on Halloween Night for doing a spectacular job patrolling her neighborhood.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Consider October 2023 Per Diem for Mayor Asbridge
- Consider October 19, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

There was a motion made to approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION: Oliver McClellan

SECOND: William McDaniel

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel

NAYS: None

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS - VOTING SESSION:

Consideration of Employee Insurance for Calendar Year 2024

There was a motion made to approve staff's recommendations for employee insurance for calendar year 2024.

MOTION: Joe Anglin

SECOND: Oliver McClellan

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Consider First Reading of Ordinance 700 Amending the Charter of the City of Flowery Branch for more effective, efficient leasing of spaces.

There was a motion made to approve Ordinance Number 700 amending the charter of the City of Flowery Branch to allow for more efficient, effective leasing of properties.

MOTION: Oliver McClellan
SECOND: William McDaniel
AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel
NAYS: None
Motion carried

Consideration of FY2024 Vibrant Communities Grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts Grant Acceptance

There was a motion made to accept the grant award of \$5,000 from the Georgia Council of the Arts, comply with the grant conditions, and authorize the Mayor and staff to execute necessary documents to comply with the grant.

MOTION: William McDaniel
SECOND: Joe Anglin
AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel
NAYS: None
Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was a motion made to enter executive session for matters related to pending or potential litigation, matter related to the acquisition/disposition of real estate and for matters related to certain personnel issues at 6:34 p.m.

MOTION: Joe Anglin
SECOND: William McDaniel
AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel
NAYS: None
Motion carried

There was a motion made to exit executive session at 6:52 p.m.

MOTION: Joe Anglin
SECOND: Oliver McClellan
AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel
NAYS: None
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

MOTION: Oliver McClellan

SECOND: Joe Anglin

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Edward R. Asbridge, Mayor

Date

Shelia Cooper, City Clerk