



**Blakely City Council  
Minutes**

**August 18, 2016**

**City Hall**

**5:00 P.M.**

**I) Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance**

Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman James Crozier and Councilman Charles Middleton were present. Councilman Al Hutchins was not present. Councilman Crozier gave the invocation. The Mayor led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Let the record show that the City Clerk, Melinda Crook was also present.

**II) City Clerk's Report**

The City Clerk presented the Council with an agreement between the City, County and Randy Miles Trucking regarding the hauling of the landfill garbage to Waste Management. She stated that the cost would increase to \$11.00 per ton instead of \$10.50 due to omitting the minimum tonnage of 22 tons which would just about work out to what is being paid presently. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the hauling agreement with Randy Miles Trucking. The motion carried with Councilman Crozier, Councilman Thornton and Councilman Middleton voting "YEH"

The Clerk then informed the Council that upon discussion with the Mayor he had made the determination to pay \$30,440.00 out of the SPLOST account and financing \$100,000.00 with GMA for the purchase of the boom truck. She then stated that a Resolution needed to be approved to complete the financing paperwork with GMA. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the Resolution to complete the financial paperwork for financing \$100,000 through the City's GMA Master Lease. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Thornton and Councilman Crozier voting "YEH".

**III) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council**

Jason Gauntt addressed the Council regarding procurement of materials for FFTH. He briefly updated where this project is at this point. He also stated that the bid is in the process for the 13 local conversion points which have already been designed. He stated that he had gone out to three bidders, Power/Telephone, Walker and Associates and Kenwood Cable Group. He stated that only one had come back with a proposal for and all in solution that had been requested and that was Power/Telephone. He stated that it was easier on the staff to have only one vendor. Councilman Crozier questioned where they were out of to which Jason answered that they were out of NC and TN. He stated that the Power/Telephone proposal was \$394,022.74 which will include fiber, NST's and handholds. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to accept the proposal from Power/Telephone in the amount of \$394,022.74. The motion carried by Councilman Middleton, Councilman Thornton and Councilman Crozier voting "YEH"

Jason Gauntt informed the Council that SGRITA has gone from 150 customers to 750 customers with recurring going from \$6,000 to \$7,000 up to \$41,000. He stated that they now have 4 full time employees but did have one resign to go back and finish her degree and continue to drive customer service. Councilman Crozier questioned a competitor, Exceed, to which Jason stated that it is a form of satellite internet.

Jason informed the Council that E-911 has 7 staff members and the building is close to be finished. He spoke of the console installation and training schedules. He restated the going live date of September 28<sup>th</sup> with Early County and the following week with Randolph and Stewart. Councilman Middleton questioned the trunk lines and Jason stated he didn't see an issue with those. He stated that he didn't have confidence in the RF for the 51 air miles from Randolph and Stewart so we have put in wire line controllers. He then stated that he had a good meeting with Clay County and that they have an agreement in hand to go to the Commission/City with.

Councilman Thornton questioned Jason regarding if he had knowledge of the Tantalus metering system. Jason stated that he had a little exposure to them in Albany. Councilman Thornton then stated that when he ran he had told people about the prepaid meters he had told people that they would be available in January or at the latest February. He then stated that he is getting chewed out on a regular basis. He asked Jason to be over this project and work with the Clerk and Electric Department Head to get this project completed. Jason stated that he worked at the pleasure of the Council. Councilman Thornton restated that he would like Jason to take charge of the project. He stated that the Clerk had a lot on her plate. Councilman Middleton stated that Jason had a lot on his plate as well. The Mayor asked the Clerk for an update. The clerk stated that four citizens had been added and that the software updates were still a major issue. She stated that calls had been placed to citizens who had signed up for prepaid had been called but that only one was willing to come in and speak about it. She stated that because of the manual process is how it is working at the present time the number needs to be limited. She informed the Council of some other pieces that are complete and where the others are in the process. She stated that she felt the daily read and prepaid would be fully implemented by mid September or early October, once testing of the daily read file had been done. There was discussion about the credit checks and the implementation of the new deposit structure. The Clerk informed the Council that credit checks are being done for every applicant but that the new deposits would not be in place until the prepaid metering was fully implemented. Councilman Thornton then informed Jason that the reason he had asked him to take over the project was because with everything else that he was doing for the City he was doing such a good job and was getting it done quickly. He stated again that this was because it had been promised by January or February and that this was no disrespect to the Clerk due to her job at City Hall. The Mayor then stated that he would get with the Clerk and Jason.

Jason informed the Council that they will be pushing out a cityofblakely.org e-mail addresses.

Gabe Jordan addressed the Council to go back over the cost comparison for the hauling. Shortly into his discussion he was informed that the agreement had already been approved.

#### **IV) Public Comments**

Commissioner Sol addressed the Council regarding the hauling stating that he was doing better because he didn't have a contract and was trying to get it. He then discussed the additional cost regarding the air miles by going wire line controls. Jason stated it would have been about \$15,000 to \$20,000 and he then explained why he felt this would be the better option. He also spoke of the upfront funds from the other County's and stated that revenue would exceed expenditures

#### **V) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the August 14th Special Called City Council Meeting. The motion carried by Councilman Middleton, Councilman Thornton and Councilman Crozier voting "YEH"

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Anthony Howard, Mayor