



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CITY HALL**

DECEMBER 13, 2016

5:00 P.M.

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

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

II) Citizens And Delegations

Advocates For Better Communities – Economic Development Package

Ivan Minks provided the Council with a copy of an Urban Redevelopment Plan. He talked about the Resolutions that accompanied this plan. He also stated that this is just a draft but that the Resolution needs to be completed to go forward with this process. He stated that the Urban Redevelopment Plan and the Enterprise Zone are maintained at the City and that they are the base plan for Economic Development when applying for USDA and CDBG Grants. Wanda Minks stated that these designations give the City a lot of advantages in things that need to be done. The Mayor stated that since they had already been hired the City needed to move forward with these items.

Beth Wasdin – Mobile Home - Ms. Beth Wasdin spoke to the Council regarding a trailer on S. Central, she owned, which had a small kitchen fire. She presented the Council with pictures of the area after the burn and now that it has been cleaned. She stated that some work had been done on the trailer a short time ago, before the fire (wiring and flooring.) The Mayor asked the Building Official, Kenneth Jones, to explain to the Council why he had taken the steps he had. Kenneth stated that he had gotten a copy of the fire report, which stated total loss. He mentioned that the seal was burned on the outside and the smoke damage and that he had looked at the value of the mobile home as well. He stated that an issue with this mobile home is that it is in an R1 Zone and is considered non-conforming use. He stated that the Ordinance says that if non-conforming use is damaged by fire or weather which is more than 50% it should be removed and goes back to normal use. He stated that he had told her that she could appeal. The Mayor questioned if the mobile home is worth \$10,000 and the repairs are less than \$5,000 than it would be able to be fixed. Kenneth stated that he had checked the records and it was worth about \$3,500/\$4,500. There was discussion on how long the mobile home had been in the area. Ms. Wasdin stated that the trailer was a 1984 and that the trailer was valued \$11,000. Kenneth stated that he had printed out the value but that he didn't have that information with him. Ms. Wasdin was questioned if she had gotten an estimate for repairs, to which she stated she had not. Kenneth stated that he would provide the tax information to the Council. There was discussion on how the fire came about and what Kenneth thought about how much work would need to be done. A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to give Ms. Wasdin 6 months to bring the trailer up to code. The motion carried with Councilman Thornton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

III) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading And Adoption Of Budget Ordinance - The Mayor read the Budget Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the

Budget Ordinance. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting “YEH.”

Resolution To Adopt An Urban Redevelopment Plan - The Mayor read the Resolution to adopt an Urban Redevelopment Plan. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Resolution to adopt an Urban Redevelopment Plan. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting “YEH.”

Resolution To Designate An Urban Redevelopment Area - The Mayor read the major portion of the Resolution to designate an Urban Redevelopment Area. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Resolution to designate an Urban Redevelopment Area. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting “YEH.”

Resolution To Designate The City Of Blakely Enterprise Zone - The Mayor asked Ivan Minks if he wanted to briefly go over the Enterprise Zone. Ivan stated that the Enterprise Zone and the Urban Redevelopment Plan is a building block and goes along with the Comprehensive Plan in instituting different powers of legislation given to the City, once adopted, to develop the Community. He stated that the Enterprise Zone is meant to attract business to our area. He stated that it offers tax incentives and breaks to build in our community. He stated that these property tax breaks could be up to 10 years. He went through some other incentives that could be available as well. The Mayor stated that it had been previously discussed how these designations could change the points for the City when applying for grants with DCA. There was further discussion regarding the points system and how they are awarded and the RAZ designations. It was also stated that these designations allow the City to apply for CDBG’s every year. He stated that once the RAZ is in place it stays in place for three years. He stated that an update would need to be done each year but that it wouldn’t have to be renewed until the fourth year. He then explained more about the RAZ designation and how it can work for the City. He then stated that with the amounts that would now be available to the City, grant wise, several things could be done in one area (housing, street, sewer etc...) A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Resolution to designate the City of Blakely Enterprise Zone. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting “YEH.”

IV) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Adoption of the 2017 Budget - The City Clerk informed the Mayor and Council and the changes requested at the Public Hearing had been made and incorporated in the copy of the budget presented. She informed the Mayor and Council that the format of the budget had been changed according to how the auditor preferred it to be formatted (separated the General Fund and Enterprise Funds.) The City Clerk also stated that the Special Funds Budget was included with the items that had been gone over at the public hearing. She stated that no items had been changed in the Special Funds Budget. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and Seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the budgets as submitted. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting “YEH.”

Meeting Dates For 2017 - The Mayor questioned if there were any issues with the dates submitted for approval. He then stated that the July 4th meeting date would need to be moved to July 11th. Councilman Hutchins then stated that July 11th conflicted with the School Board meeting. Councilman Hutchins then suggested Thursday, July 6th. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the dates as presented with the change of the July 4th meeting date to July 6th. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting “YEH.”

Reappointments To The SWGRC

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to send to the County the City recommendation to re-appointment Freddy Speight as the non-public designee to the SWGRC. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to re-appoint Councilman Hutchins to the SWGRC. The motion carried with Councilman Thornton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

Appointment To Blakely Housing Authority - The Mayor explained that the City had previously appointed Charlie Wade but the law states that a City employee could not be appointed to the board so the City needed to appoint a replacement. There was discussion regarding a nomination that Councilman Hutchins had brought to the Mayor. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the recommendation of Councilman Hutchins. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

Councilman Hutchins questioned if any proposals had been received regarding the floor cleaning/waxing at the Civic Center. The Clerk informed the Council that she had only received one proposal to this point. Councilman Hutchins stated that another one would be coming in.

The Mayor updated the Council on Jason Gauntt's condition and how the fiber to the home was going so far.

V) Public Comments

Tony Thompson questioned an area, at Washington Park, that needed to be repaired around one of the goal posts so that there were no injuries. He also stated that a security light was been replaced but another one had gone out.

VI) Executive Session [requested by Gabe]

The Mayor stated that he would prefer to wait until all Councilmen were present.

VII) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the December 13th Special Called City Council Meeting. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

Anthony Howard, Mayor