



**Blakely City Council
Special Called Meeting Minutes**

December 15, 2014

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

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

The Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton were present. Councilman Mills and Councilman Smith were not present. Mr. Wilbourn Wade gave the invocation. Also let the record show that the City Clerk, Melinda Crook was also present.

II) Budget

The City Clerk informed the Council that she had prepared multiple budgets according to cost of living increases proposed by Council, which were either a 2% increase, 2.5% increase, 3% increase or a flat \$1500 per employee. She informed the Council that after she made these adjustments she then adjusted Electric Sales and Gas Sales to bring the revenue overage back to the discretionary revenue in the Trust Account. She also informed the Council that \$20,000 was incorporated into the landfill budget per items EPD stated that needed to be done in the old landfill. She also informed the Council that she also had to change the revenue coming from the County for the 20% of the Fire Department budget also was changed because with each percentage the budgeted amount for the Fire Department changed. The Mayor then suggested to the Council to adopt the 3% budget giving a 2% across the board increase to the employees and employee evaluation for up to another 1%. Councilman Hutchins then spoke regarding the \$1500 but in discussion it was stated that there was consensus between the employees. Councilman Hutchins then expressed the fact that the \$1500 would assist the low man more than the 2%. There was some more discussion on the matter. The Clerk commented that budget adjustments can be done throughout the year if need be on other items. The employees present were asked their thoughts and they were satisfied. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the budget with 3% increase to be given out as 2% across the board and up to an additional 1% based on evaluations. There was a further brief discussion about the low man not getting as much as higher paid. It was also stated that pay is different according to their level and position. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

III) Charge offs

The Mayor explained to the Council that he felt that they should be aware of how many accounts are unpaid each year and that he felt that the Council should approve the charge off of these accounts. He also stated that they will continue to be worked on to collect but as of right now they are \$69,813.54. The Clerk informed the Council that City Hall continues to try to collect these amounts after year end and the steps that are taken to do so. She also informed the Council that they stay on the books just in accounts receivable instead of the current billing system. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the 2014 charge offs as of November 30, in the amount of \$69,813.54. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

IV) Budget adjustments

The Clerk presented the Council with amendments to the gas revenue and expenditure and for the asphalt recycler along with several interdepartmental adjustments. She reminded the Council that in the last group of amendments the revenue was over by \$38,000 and even though the gas revenue and expenditure balance out the amendment for the asphalt recycler was \$35,000 to help offset the previous overage. She then informed the Council that the adjustments. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the budget amendments and adjustments presented to the Council. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

V) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

The Mayor updated the Council on the Southside project. He informed the Council that he had met with Blankenship and Mr. Jones and that figures had been updated with the new paving figures. He informed the Council that the new figure was \$522,591.48 with the paving adjustment. He then informed the Council that there was a change order to replace the sewer line down the dirt road and spot repairs on the balance of Southside that totaled to \$127,136.52 which brought the full project amount to

\$621,320.54. He stated that this was a decrease from the original amount of \$28,407.05. The Clerk provided the Council with a spreadsheet of updated figures spent on the project to date. She also informed the Council that the spreadsheet also included estimated figures in the SPLOST account which also estimated where the SPLOST account would be in 2015 with the projected budget approved items. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the change order presented on the Southside project. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the SPLOST budget with adjusted figures to incorporate the balance of the Southside project. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

The mayor then brought to the Council a quote from Blankenship on the Arlington St. drainage project. He informed the Council that the original quote came in at 46,000, which was higher than expected so Blankenship was asked to relook at other alternatives. He informed the Council that an adjustment was made to change the concrete header walls to rip wrap using the City's pipe which then brought the quote to \$23,855. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the quote from Blankenship in the amount of \$23,855. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

The Mayor informed the Council that an agreement had been met with Judge Holley regarding a disagreement over election fees. He stated that she had originally asked for \$4,500 but that upon negotiation she agreed to accept \$3,000. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to settle with Judge Holley in the amount of \$3,000. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

Councilman Hutchins informed the Council that due to becoming County Commissioner Mr. Charlie Sol would have to come off the Planning Commission. He then stated that he would like to recommend Wallace O'Neal as a replacement. The Clerk was asked to check with the City Attorney regarding whether there would be an issue due to Mr. Melzie Mosley being Mr. O'Neal's relative.

The Mayor informed the Council that there was a position open on the Housing Authority Board and that according to the law the replacement could be named by the mayor alone. He then informed the Council that there was a recommendation from the board however he felt that the Council should be involved and asked them to provide any other nomination to be considered.

VI) Executive Session [personnel – pending litigation]

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to enter into Executive Session for personnel issues. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

VII) Public Comments

VIII) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the December 15th Special Called Meeting. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Mills and Councilman Hutchins voting "YEH."

Anthony Howard, Mayor