



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

OCTOBER 16, 2018

3:00 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 Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman Charles Middleton and Councilman Al Hutchins were all present with Councilman James Crozier present via phone. Let the record show that the City Clerk, Melinda Crook was also present.

II) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Mayor discussed section 7 of the Code of Ordinance and how the steps of the Ordinance had been followed. He spoke of the curfew in place since Hurricane Michael had come through on October 10th. He spoke of issues that had taken place, such as a wallet and phone being stolen from a worker in from out of town and several DUI's which had led to the additional law enforcement brought in to town. He discussed other areas of law enforcement.

The Mayor introduced two representatives from Effingham County that had come in to help with FEMA paperwork.

The Mayor informed the Council of the additional utility workers that had come in, approximately 70 additional workers, that were here as long as needed. He updated the Council on the areas that were getting set back up with utilities and how the workers were working sunup to sundown. He spoke of the inspection of Fiber and that it was being assessed to determine what and how much was down and that GEMA was looking into assistance with Fiber techs.

The Mayor stated the priorities at the present time which were meals, sleep, showers etc...

The Mayor informed the Council of the Windstream generator that had gown down which disrupted 911, phone communication and Verizon. He explained that the generator had been taken from the well on Hwy 39 to Windstream. He also explained that with their generator going down there had been some memory in their systems to be lost but they were working on getting it resolved.

The Mayor informed the Council that the City had two wells up and currently the water was in good shape.

The Mayor stated that a Yaggy Antenna has been installed so that 911 could now communicate with Stewart and Randolph Counties.

Craig Hughes touched base on what was critical at the present time. He spoke of customers that had mast/meter base issues and that there was an inflow of people from the County and other areas for Salvation Army.

The Effingham Reps spoke of an organization called VOAD that may be able to assist customers with electric connections to the house.

The Mayor commented on debris removal and how City employee could not do work on private property but if debris was brought to the curb the City would pick it up. He also stated that there were two approved sites for debris removal, which were South 27 (the old pond) and Doodleville but that only inert material could be taken there.

The Mayor brought up the question on if the City should contract out the debris removal. The Effingham Reps spoke about the percentage of cost recovery if the removal was done by contractors and the City. They stated that if contracted out it should be separately monitored. They stated that the monitoring company will keep and present a packet for FEMA of work done.

The question was asked if FEMA would cover meter bases and other items purchased such as food. There was also discussion on following a purchasing policy.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Marshal's office roof had partially collapsed and was presently not operational.

The Mayor informed the Council that Piggly Wiggly, from Day 1, had said to just bring trucks and we could get what was needed but that Harvey's would donate so much as a bag of ice. He informed the Council that Birdsong stated their warehouse was available for City use as long as needed.

The Mayor informed the Council that Congressman Bishop has call on the first day and that Gerald Greene had come to see the damage.

The Mayor asked the Council what they would like to do regarding utility bill due dates. He informed the Council that he had only given the 10% relief to date but that he felt all fees should be waived. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to extend the due date to October 20th and the cutoff date to October 25th with no penalties. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilman

III) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the October 16th Special Called City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor