



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

NOVEMBER 6, 2018

6:00 P.M.

I) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Let the record show that Mayor Anthony Howard call the meeting to order. Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman James Crozier, Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Charles Middleton were all present. Also present were City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and City Clerk, Melinda Crook. Margaret Hess gave the invocation and Fred Ross led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ross then presented the Mayor with a Bible that they present every time a job is completed. He then thanked the citizens of Blakely for their hospitality and graciousness.

II) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the October 2nd and October 16th minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

The Mayor gave special recognition to the Kentucky and South Carolina Disaster Relief volunteers. He read a Resolution acknowledging the assistance these groups had given. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Resolution. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

FEMA Presentation

Ms. Luisa Rivera, FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, addressed the Council and public on the assistance that FEMA can give to those that register. She stated that the only way you will know if you are covered is to register. She stated that the declaration date was October 14th and that you must register by December 13th. She spoke of individual insurance coverages and how some things may not be covered and again how important it is to register. She stated that registration could be done by internet, phone or at the disaster recovery center set up at 544 Howell St. She gave the web address – disasterassistance.gov and the phone number 1-800-621-FEMA. She spoke briefly of renter coverage (loss of personal property.) She spoke of cost (loan) of repairs and that FEMA partners with the SBA and how going through them more funding may be available than funding from FEMA. She spoke of how if unable to get the loan funding with the SBA then FEMA funding (grant not having to be paid back) may be available. She stated that if you choose not to take a loan from the SBA then FEMA cannot help. She stated that the FEMA grant funds are for essential needs to make your home safe. She ended with stating again to register and follow the process.

SBA Presentation

Camilla Dillard and Florenco Ramina address the Council and Public on how their organization can help the public. Ms. Dillard stated that they offer low interest rate loans.

Mr. Ramina stated that these loans could be for 30years. They spoke of those who can get assistance. They stated that it takes 7-10 days to process and 5 business days for approval. They stated that the loan does not have to be taken and the option is out there to defer the first payment and that repayment does not have to start for one year. They gave ways to apply in person and online. They stated that no one will be forced to take the loan it is just another option.

IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Radar Resolution & Certification

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman presented a resolution to allow the use of speed detector device on streets in the City of Blakely in certain areas. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Radar, Resolution and Certification. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

First Reading of Ordinance Declaring A Portion of The Municipal Street System as Unnecessary

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman read the Ordinance then stated that this was to close a certain portion of a street. This is a little area between Mr. JC Houston's and Gloria Martin's. This area is just a lot that was never developed as a street. This constituted the first reading

First Reading of Ordinance Authorizing Conveyance of Unopened Oklahoma Street to The Abutting Landowners

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman read the Ordinance then stated that this Ordinance went in conjunction with the Ordinance Declaring a Portion of the Municipal Street System as Unnecessary. This constituted the first reading

Second Reading and Adoption Of Ordinance Amending Code Section 16.6

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to adopt the Ordinance Amending Code Section 16.6. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

First Reading of Ordinance Amending Code Section 17.3

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, read the Ordinance Amending Code Section 17.3 related to traffic, speed, safety and other zones. He stated that this Ordinance was to set up limits on roads such as Liberty St. to 15 MPH and Club Dr. to 25 MPH. The Mayor stated that this ordinance needed to be looked at a little closer due to other streets that may need to be added by the second reading. This constituted the first reading.

Jail Contract

The City Attorney stated that there has been discussion with the Sheriff regarding the jail contract. He stated that when the services were combined there was a contract and that this contract was worked along the same lines but there was no amount regarding housing of prisoners. The Mayor stated that he had remembered around \$35 or \$40. This was left blank until the Sheriff and Interim Chief Copp got together to set this amount. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the contract. The motion carried unanimously

VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk stated that due to everything going on she had been unable to get financial reports together by the meeting time and would present at another time.

VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Special Recognition

The Mayor recognized the volunteers who had assistance during the storm. He asked that they all stand. He then read a Resolution acknowledging the volunteers and the services they had provided. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Volunteer Resolution. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

The Mayor asked all the first responders to stand. He then read a Resolution acknowledging all that the first responders and everything that they had done in helping the night of the storm. He showed a picture of a pin that will be given to all first responders. Some stories were provided on some of the incidents that happened the night of the Hurricane Michael. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Resolution for the First Responders. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

The Mayor then recognize the City employees who have worked diligently in the aftermath of the storm. He stated that he appreciated all that the City employees did and that there is a Resolution for the employees as well but was unable to have it completed by the meeting.

Swearing In New Police Officers

The Mayor swore in 11 new Police Officers

Municipal Competitive Trust Election Forms

The Mayor brought to the Council the election forms for the MEAG Voluntary Deposits and Off-System Sales. He stated that he felt these should be left as they were the previous year. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the elections of the Voluntary Deposits and Off-System Sales and that they be the same as the previous year. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilman present.

Councilman Hutchins questioned staggering the utility bills so that one came out as just electric and then a separate bill for all other utilities. It was asked that the Clerk gather some information on how other cities handle their billing.

Matt Hammond updated the Council on Fiber since Hurricane Michael. He stated that that all but 13 have been restored and that additional crews had been released. He also stated that they were doing installs. He informed the Council that 22 SGRITA towers had been affected and that most were back up.

The Mayor took some time to speak of the additional crews that had come in to assist, City of Opelika, City of LaGrange, Bowling Green Kentucky, City of Cartersville, Dalton Utilities, Elliott (private contractor), City of Ellaville, John Beasley and Jeff Adams and Diverse Power (for Fiber) and what was done. He shared stories of some of the issues and incidents that had taken place and some of his own experiences through out the storm and to date. He stated that he had been told that the additional workers stated that they have never been treated so well. He stated that there were others but he couldn't remember all.

Councilman Thornton thanked Jennifer Howard and Audrey Hughes for all that they have done through the storm and the help that they are continuing to provide.

The Mayor thank Ray Jarrett for all of his assistance through out the storm with all of his experience in Emergency Management.

VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tracey Robinson addressed the Council regarding changing the utility bills. He stated that he felt it was a bad idea. He also questioned if it was in previous minutes where the citizens questioned wanting more law enforcement. He also questioned if the City was still funding Public Safety after the split.

IX) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the November 6th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor