



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
CITY HALL**

**DECEMBER 3, 2019**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) Public Hearing Rezoning 27 Redbud**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Meredith Whitehead address the Council regarding the rezoning of 27 Redbud from R1 to PUD. She stated that she had spoken with local real estate agents & hotels regarding families needing home and families staying in the hotels due to lack of homes. She spoke of the substandard housing in the City and how the population numbers have decreased over the years. Councilman Thornton questioned what would rents be like if a subdivision such as Blakely Commons was to be located at this address due to the way the Council had been told about rents at Blakely Commons and they had turned out to be higher. There was a short discussion between Meredith and the Council. Several citizens addressed the Council with questions regarding the purpose of the property and if contracts could be gotten with a housing project for rent control. Another citizen brought a petition with 79 signatures against the rezoning and another citizen spoke of the population changes and asked the Council to consider tax issues.

With no further citizens addressing this issue the Public Hearing was closed at 6:25 p.m.

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

Let the record show that Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Mayor Anthony Howard, Councilman James Crozier, Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Frank Thornton were all present. Also present was the City Attorney, Steven Pruitt and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. Jack Sanders gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III) Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchings and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the November 5<sup>th</sup> minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

**IV) Citizens And Delegations**

Early County Community Involvement Association – Community Concerns

A ECCIA representative addressed the Council regarding a letter that had been presented several weeks ago. He again questioned the age limit at the Jeanette King Memorial Park set up in the bylaws. Councilman Thornton stated that the park was for children 12 and under and that children of these ages could not go to Washington Park due to being chased off. Councilman Thornton stated that he would not vote for an increase in age limit. There was a brief discussion between the ECCIA representative and the Council.

## V) Administrative Committee

### Will Caudill - Updates

Chief Will Caudill updated on the Council on the monthly Police activity and provided them a written report. He stated that there had been a good response on the canned goods collected at the haunted house and that the canned goods had been taken to the Neighborhood Service Center. Chief Caudill stated that an officer had given a short chemistry lesson at the school and that jobs had been offered to several candidates but no one had accepted the position and he felt this was due to the pay level. Chief Caudill then thanked Councilman Thornton and Councilman Crozier for their service on the Council and everything they had done for the Police Dept.

### Craig Hughes - Updates

Craig Hughes presented the October financial update. He also updated on the CDBG Grant homes, Civic Center, Gateway, Paving, Freezer Locker, Hurricane Michael cost recovery, Shriners Club, ITAD and Emergency Watershed projects. He then discussed the quotes on the CID Building Renovations. Chief Caudhill also spoke of the reasons the building required renovations. Councilman Crozier spoke of touring the building and the need for the renovations. He also stated that he would like to see sound barriers be added if the cost could still stay within the quote.

### Refurbishing CID building

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the quote of \$39,100.00 from Choice Roofing for renovations to the CID Building. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

### Mark Hawkins

#### Adoption of 2018 Building Codes

There was a first reading of the Ordinance to Adopt the 2018 Building Codes. Councilman Crozier discussed updated codes for pools & spas

### Rezoning 27 Redbud

There was discussion between the Council and the City Attorney regarding this item not being passed by the Planning Commission, due to no sight plan, which was presented to the Council. The City Attorney, Steven Pruitt, stated that it would need to go back to the Planning Commission for reconsideration. The Council agreed to table the item pending the Planning Commissions decision.

### Reappointment of McArthur Jones to the Planning Commission

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to reappoint McArthur Jones to the Planning Commission. There was some discussion regarding Ms. Alderman moving outside City limits to which Mark Hawkins stated that this position would need to be filled. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

## **VI) City Attorney's Report**

### Second Reading And Adoption Of Special Election Ordinance

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the Special Election Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

### First Reading Of Budget Ordinance

There was a first reading of the Budget Ordinance. The Council and public were informed that the budget public hearing would be Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 with the adoption of the Ordinance and budget scheduled for Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

### Second Reading And Adoption Of Ordinance Adopting Revised Amended & Restated Retirement Plan

A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the adoption of the Ordinance to Adopt Revised Amended & Restated Retirement Plan. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

## **VII) City Clerk's Report**

The City Clerk stated that she had provided written copies of Craig Hughes financial presentation to the Council. She also informed the Council that she was working on budget adjustments to be presented at the Special Called meeting if ready and if not ready would be presented at the first meeting in January.

## **VIII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council**

### 2020 Meeting Dates

Approval of the 2020 meeting dates was moved to the Special Called Meeting to allow for Council review

### 2020 Holidays

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the 2020 Holiday dates. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

### Reappointments To SWGRC

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to reappoint Councilman Hutchins as the Public representative and a motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to reappoint Freddy Speight-Non Public to the SWGRC. The motions carried unanimously by Councilman present

### Renewal of Alcohol Licenses

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the renewal of all alcohol licenses for 2020. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

The Mayor informed the Council and public that the Transfer Station building was in the process of being replaced and that a new slab was going to be done along with a temp sight, while the slab and building were being done.

The Mayor informed the Council of the Solar Project Ceremony on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor thanked Councilman Crozier and Councilman Thornton for their service on the Council and to the public, since this was their last regular scheduled meeting.

The Mayor thanked the Clerk and staff for their hard work in getting a perfect audit report for the 2018 audit.

Councilman Hutchins questioned the date for the Christmas party.

Councilman Hutchins spoke of ages limits for the equipment presently at the Jeanette King Memorial Park.

Councilman Crozier stated that it had been an Honor and a Pleasure to have served on the City Council.

#### **IX) Public Comments**

A citizen, Ms. Pat Davis, at 245 Mulberry spoke of issues on her street, cat problems, condition of houses, rent, pot hole and police activity at the Elementary School in the mornings.

Ms. Mia Pittman spoke of the park and the benefits of the park. She thanked the Council for the park.

Ms. Tinson spoke of the age limit at the park and questioned looking at an area for older children.

Erica Harris spoke of the age limit and questioned the ECCIA and the Council get together to look into a compromise. She also spoke briefly on the rezone of 27 Redbud

A Blakely Housing Authority representative spoke regarding the fact that there is no favoritism when choosing a candidate for housing.

Ceila Bostwick informed the Council and public of Christmas on the Square, December 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30.

Freddy Summerset spoke regarding the park, youth in the area and things that have happened at the park to this point. He also spoke of the availability of the Civic Center for repasses.

**X) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the December 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor