



## **BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**JANUARY 3, 2019**

**CITY HALL**

**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 Charles Middleton and Councilman Al Hutchins were present. Let the record show that Councilman James Crozier was not present. Also, present was the City Attorney, Hayden and City Clerk Melinda Crook. Councilman Al Hutchins gave the invocation and led the Council and Public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II) APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the December 4<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> minutes with a correction in the December 19<sup>th</sup> minutes of ITAB to ITAD (abbreviation for Immediate Threat and Danger.) The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

### **III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS**

Jim Nolan – Easement

Mr. Jim Nolan came before the Council to request the removal of trees on an easement that adjoins his property. He stated that he has been trying to work on this since 2016 and has provided the documentation on the property. The Mayor stated that the subdivision was platted around 1910 and stated that there were questions of whether there were any City services on this easement. Mr. Nolan stated that there was a gas line that ran down the easement. He stated that the trees are dying and is afraid that they could hit his home. He also stated that the City has trimmed the trees around the electric lines. The City Attorney stated that if the trees are a danger the City will/should take action due to the liability that Mr. Nolan was questioning. Councilman Middleton stated that if one was a danger then he felt the City should remove all the trees. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to remove all the trees on the easement. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilman present.

### **IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

Alcohol License Phillips North

The Building Official, Mark Hawkins, informed the Council that the present alcohol license, at 897 N. Main St., was being transferred from Carlos Yousef to Dale Yousef. He also stated that the background check has been completed and everything is in order. He informed the Council that the license is for Beer and Wine and does not include on premises. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the alcohol license for Dale Yousef. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Jerome Johnson Bail Bond License Application - This item was postponed due to not being fully completed

Alcohol License Suresh Rao Amoco Food Mart

The Building Official, Mark Hawkins, stated that Suresh Rao was purchasing the Amoco Food Mart next to the McDonald's from Ghotra. He stated that the background check had gone through. He stated that Ghotra was listed as the representative since Mr. Rao is not currently a Blakely resident. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the alcohol license for Mr. Rao. Councilman Hutchins questioned if there was a time limit on Mr. Rao's move into City limits to which the Mayor stated that it would depend on when Ghotra was moving. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

## **V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Renew Chamber Of Commerce - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the renewal of the Chamber of Commerce agreement for \$25,000. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Renew Court Square Development - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the renewal of the agreement with the Court Square Development. There was discussion on the additional funding requested for the budget. The Mayor stated that would be discussed in when preparing the budget presently being worked on. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Municipal Court Judge: Memo, First Reading Of Ordinance , Contract  
The City Attorney stated that this Ordinance was being presented due to a new law. She stated that there is also a new contract with the Municipal Judge and will run for one year.

## **VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

The City Clerk present the Council with financial reports. She stated that she was hoping to have the budget hearing set up shortly. Councilman Hutchins questioned repairs to the park. The Mayor stated that the insurance company has their own contractor and that they have been in the area working on the City buildings that need repairs.

## **VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

Craig updated the Council on the FD/Government Complex. He informed the Council that the drywall was being worked on and that everything is moving along well. He stated that the weather has been the biggest issue and that the City has been keeping up with their parts. Councilman Hutchins question Craig on repairs to the Civic Center-due to the storm. Craig stated that he would bring this to the attention of the insurance company.

Craig informed the Council that the paving, on Church St, is about 99% complete. He stated that there are a few areas the City will correct. Councilman Hutchins questioned the Blakely Common area where the street has sunk several years ago. The Mayor stated that this project did not involve that and that it had been corrected then. The Mayor informed the Council and public that Flowers Dr. has been submitted for the 2019 LMIG.

Craig informed the Council that about 1.6 million in invoices has been submitted to the insurance company and briefly went through the items submitted. He then informed the Council of how the process, with the insurance company, has worked.

Craig informed the Council that whatever the insurance company doesn't pay can then be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement. He briefly explained how detailed the paperwork for FEMA is and that some outside help has been received for this process.

Craig informed the Council of the debris pick up process and how the pickup has been progressing. He informed the Council that Phase 1 is complete and they are working on Phase 2 which includes C&D, stumps and root balls. He stated that no debris will be picked up that is no on the ROW. He informed the Council he meets with the company once a week. Councilman Hutchins questioned the time frame which Craig stated they are in the final trips. Councilman Middleton questioned all the down power lines to which Craig stated they are mostly telephone.

Police Chief William Caudill thanked the Council for the appointment to Police Chief. He then went through the monthly Police report. He stated he was excited to be on board and that a big factor in his decision was how the City pulled together during Hurricane Michael.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Utility Billing Supervisor position had been advertised. He also stated that the second TAVT payment will be made this month and that the Tax Commissioner will no longer be collecting taxes for the City.

Councilman Hutchins questioned resurfacing/road work on E. South Blvd due to the street sinking. The Mayor stated that the City has done work in this area and that work sunk as well. There was discussion on what additional work may need to be done to fully fix this issue.

The Mayor informed the Council that the EPD's recent inspection was good except for issues behind the hospital, Willow Glen and grease in the line at a lift station. He stated that responses to these issues need to be given before EPD will renew the permit.

Councilman Hutchins questioned curfew for minors to which the Mayor stated was already in an Ordinance.

Appoint Mayor Pro Tem - After review of the past Mayor Pro Tem's the Mayor stated that Councilman Hutchins was next in line. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to appoint **Councilman Hutchins** as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH".

Civic Center Rules - A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to leave the rules as they presently are with one change which is to take out the portion that states that discounts are given by direct authorization of the Mayor. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

The Mayor gave a brief fiber report also giving customer count and number of install pending.

### **VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Travis Wimbush asked the Council for the flags to be put out for the annual MLK parade on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Anna Sewell stated she had questions about her utility bill to which the Mayor stated she could come to City Hall, during normal business hours to discuss with the City Clerk.

Brother Jason asked the Council to consider giving reprieves on cut off when/if billings go out late.

Celia Bostwick informed the Council that the Chamber has been getting a lot of calls from farmers regarding the annexation proposals. She asked the Council to consider having a meeting about the plans.

### **IX) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the January 3<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor