



BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2019

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Anthony Howard called the meeting to order. Those present were Mayor Anthony Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman Charles Middleton, Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman James Crozier. Also present were City Attorney Tommy Coleman and Trudie Evans. Commissioner Charlie Sol gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the January 3, 2019 minutes. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilmen present.

III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

Erica Harris Henderson – Thanked the Council for the City’s assistance during MLK parade and program. Ms. Henderson also discussed the Pataula Center for Children. She briefly touched on the services Pataula provides and their current case load. She also requested that those present wear blue every Friday in April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month, to call attention to child abuse. She closed by thanking the Council for funding provided to the Pataula Center for Children.

David Ross & Justin Smith – Early County Health Department

Mr. Smith addressed the Council requesting that they adopt some State laws locally to give the Health Department aid in enforcing health violations on a local level. Mr. Coleman had some concerns that the local regulations might be preempted by the State. Mr. Coleman will look into it.

IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Resolution To Amend Service Delivery Strategy

A motion to approve the resolution to amend the service delivery strategy was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilmen present.

Second Reading And Adoption Of Municipal Court Judge Ordinance

There was some discussion about whether this would apply to any assistant judge that might be appointed, and if there was a need to appoint an assistant judge should Judge Mills be unavailable. A motion to approve the municipal court judge ordinance was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilmen present.

ECG Resolution And Amendment

A motion to approve the ECG resolution and amendment was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilmen present.

City Of Ethics Resolution

A motion to approve the city of ethics resolution was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilmen present.

There was a first reading of mobile home park / campground ordinance.

Pioneer – Mr. Coleman brought the Council up to date on the status of the Pioneer Bankruptcy Lawsuit against the City.

VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Melinda Crook was not present due to clerk training. Financial reports were handed out and Council was instructed to see her later in the week if they had any questions regarding the reports.

VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Water Tower Lease

A motion to approve the water tower lease was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion carried unanimously by all councilmen present.

Festival Rules – Mr. Mike Newberry addressed the Council with concerns about vendors setting up outside the Square not being inspected by the Early County Health Department as those that pay for a spot on the Square must be inspected. One of their other concerns was about pets being present during the festival as a child was bitten by a chihuahua. Mr. Coleman will look into what type of steps we can take. Mr. Newberry also thanked the Council for their past help with Peanut Proud and asked for their assistance with this year's festival.

Reappointment Of Wallace O'Neal To Planning Commission

A motion to reappoint Mr. Wallace O'Neal to the planning commission was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion carried unanimously by all councilmen present.

First Responder Pinning Ceremony – was postponed to the next meeting.

Gateway Contract – Mayor Howard asked Craig Hughes to update the Council on the contract. Mr. Hughes stated that the contract was not yet ready, as there were still some easements needed.

Craig also provided the Council with an update on the new governmental building. They have a tentative move in date of April. Even though the building won't be 100% complete by Peanut Proud there may be an open house so citizens can tour the building.

Mr. Hughes also informed the Council that we had received a check from our insurance company for 1 million dollars for storm damages. He also stated that FEMA and contractors were still doing some root ball removal. The goal is to have all the root balls gone by Peanut Proud.

Mayor Howard informed those present that the City had made the second TAVT payment back to the tax commissioner.

Police Chief Will Caudill presented the police report to the Council.

Mayor Howard informed those present that the sewer repairs behind the hospital have been completed by Blankenship Construction. Also that we are currently looking for

easements where Baptist Branch crosses Flowers Drive, as that pipe is collapsing and some repairs will be necessary in that location.

The Mayor also addressed some concerns by citizens that we were already digging up areas on Church, River and College Streets that have just been repaved. He explained that we were simply uncovering manholes and gas and water valves that we must have access to.

Mayor Howard also gave a brief update on TSPLOST.

Mayor Howard briefly touched on the Water Sewer Bond. He said it is possible that if we buy back those bonds we could get a lower interest rate and save some money. The call date on the bond is August. He will arrange a presentation for the next meeting.

Matt Hammond gave an update of Fiber to the Home and SGRITA. He informed the Council that city workers had wired the new governmental building for data, tv, and phones.

Mayor Howard addressed the city annexation. This is currently on hold as the legal staff at the Capitol wants the exact legal description of the current City Limits of Blakely. He stated that the annexation process was started because the City does provide some services to citizens outside the municipal bounds of the city, and have had requests for others, but those citizens don't pay any city ad valorem tax to subsidize the services provided.

Councilman Hutchins called everyone's attention to the new photos of the Councilmen hanging outside the chambers. He also invited everyone to attend the Unsung Hero Banquet the last Saturday in February.

Procurement/Purchasing Policy

A motion to approve the addendum to the procurement/purchasing policy as presented was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously by all councilmen present.

Mayor Howard also informed those present that GEMA will be set up at Peanut Proud. He requested everyone to stop by and say thank you for all the help they provided after Hurricane Michael.

VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

George Brown addressed the Council to thank them for repairs done at Redbud & Elm Streets.

Celia Bostwick reminded everyone present about the upcoming Chamber Dinner.

Margaret Zachary asked the process for applying for the North Avenue grant for housing. She also expressed concerns about a tree on the road on Washington Street, and a utility pole on Lee Street.

Anna Sewell informed those present about Wesley Chapel's Black History month program to be held on February 16th at the Civic Center.

IX)ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously by all councilmen present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor