



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL**

MARCH 5, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Let the record show that all the Councilmen were present along with City Attorney Tommy Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook. Reverend Martin gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Howard took a moment to introduce Tammy Jackson, the new Utility Billing Supervisor

II) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 5, 2019 and February 22, 2019 minutes was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilmen present.

III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

Todd Barnes with Raymond James addressed the Council.

Mr. Barnes stated that he and the Mayor had talked about refinance of Bond Debt. Stated he worked on original issuance and that after 10 years the City could refinance with no penalty. Call date is August 1st and can refinance 90 days before which would be May. \$5.2 million in bonds; Interest current 3.65 – 4.35%. Mr. Barnes stated that instead of looking into the public market he would look at private placement in the bank market and would send out to banks they deal with. Look at lowest interest and cost and then he went over savings per year and over term balance (20 – 30,000) per year, which would take 60-90 days. Mayor asked if this would require another referendum Todd stated it would not and also stated that terms could not be extended. If the City moved forward with this what would cost be. Todd stated none if we didn't move forward. Councilman Hutchins questioned cost if the City did move forward. Mr. Barnes stated Bond Counsel and others would be around \$80-\$100,000 and would paid out of refinance transaction – all cost are figured in proposed savings – A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton to have Raymond James put out test on refinancing. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Planning Commission - Amendment to Variance Request For 33 W Butler - Ivan Minks stated the variance requested for 336W. Butler – the area zoned CDB – Central Business

District. Asking Council to approve the variance for a residence to be built in the central business district on its existing lot. The Central Business District does not allow for residential structures. Councilman Crozier asked if the home would be a manufactured home or wood construction-further discussion-the new zoning is to improve the business district and not to penalize existing homeowners in the new district. Ivan Minks answered wood construction. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the variance request as wood construction. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Second Reading and Adoption of Mobile Home Park / Campground Ordinance

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Adoption of Mobile Home Park/Campground Ordinance. Councilman Hutchins question where this was being done. The Mayor stated that no presently but this was to get ahead and set up regulations if someone were to want to do so. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Budget Ordinance

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Budget Ordinance/with budget presented and to dispense with the second reading. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

ECG Resolution & Agreement

A motion to table the ECG Resolution & Agreement was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion carried unanimously by all Councilmen present.

Enco – Municode

Reassignment agreement

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Inmate Housing Agreement

City Attorney, Tommy Coleman stated that the main terms of the agreement. He stated that the cost would be \$40 a head per night and that the City would pay medical if and inmate was to get sick. He stated that this agreement was pretty standard and that the County attorney had only made a few changes. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the Inmate Housing Agreement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Pioneer Bankruptcy

Nothing further on Pioneer bankruptcy.

Outside City Limit - Water Service Delivery

Councilman Crozier asked that the issue with the billing outside City limits be discussed. City Attorney, Tommy Coleman stated that this law regarding this issue. Mr. Coleman gave examples and facts on the law. He went through the laws based on cost of service delivery and it needs to be confirmed that it is in the Service Delivery Strategy. He stated that an agreement needs to be with County to provide this service outside City limits. Councilman Crozier questioned if a feasibility study needed to be done by the County to which Tommy stated that it would be if the County wanted to challenge the rate then they would need to hire engineers etc... to come to a cost to deliver water to these customers. It was then stated that there would be no surcharge for water outside City limits.

VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk present financial reports to the Council. She informed the Council that some more documents had been provided to the City auditor. Councilman Crozier questioned SGRITA revenues. The Clerk explained that monthly bill is presented to SGRITA for expenses and the City receives reimbursement for these expenses which averages around \$18-\$20,000 per month.

VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Basis for Selection of Firm for Consulting/Administrative Services

Wanda Minks stated the procurement governed by the guidelines of the CDBG program and that this is the last part. She stated that no one else responded to the RFP except Advocates for Better Communities. The Mayor asked Wanda to let everyone know how many years she had been getting Grants for the City. She stated that the first application was in 2003 all grants applied for since have been awarded with the exception of 2015 due to an issue. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve Advocates for Better Communities as the Grant Consulting/Administrative Services. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Bucket Truck

Technology Director, Matt Hammond stated that they were looking for another bucket truck. Bids are for new and used. He explained the requirements due to the dual purpose of the truck. Mayor stated we pulled funds on loan because we knew we were going to purchase other items. Went over some prices and stated that the new truck would be 6 months but the others are ready to go. Matt stated that a need was found during the storm and the needs of the Light Dept also. Councilman Hutchins questioned the cost of delivery and if there were other options. Matt updated the Council stating that there are currently 307 customers, 4 pending installs and that the hospital wants the BlakelyNet service and is looking into more of their locations. He discussed the Peanut Proud promo. Councilman Crozier questioned if there had to be a special agreement to service the hospital to which Matt stated that they may request a service level agreement. A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the purchase of the bucket truck in the amount of \$74,995. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Purchase of Wetlands Mitigation Credits

The Mayor stated that the City has been working on the Gateway project for about 10 years. He stated that the project is close to putting out bids for the work. He then stated that 1.76 wetland mitigation credit would need to be purchased in the amount of \$5984.00. Mayor explained that the City had previously purchased 2.0 wetland mitigation credits. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the purchase of the 1.76 wetland mitigation credits in the amount of \$5,984. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Craig Hughes gave an update on the Fire Dept/Government Complex. He stated that it keeps moving forward at a good pace. Doors are ready for installation, the HVAC is on, phones & computers are being worked on and still looking at an April time frame. He stated they were still within budget and the State Fire Marshal would be there on Friday. He informed the Council that debris pickup would be moving back to a regular schedule within the next 30 days and that FEMA reimbursement on debris removal would be through May.

Jim Copp went through the monthly Police report

The Mayor informed the Council that after volunteers had cleaned up a lot, across from the Library, he had received a call from the owners wanting to donate the property to the City. Councilman Crozier questioned environmental checks on the property. He informed the Council that the City Attorney would be looking for any issues. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to accept the donation pending the City Attorneys review. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

The Mayor informed the Council that the City had received notification that the City's insurance would no longer cover transmission and distribution lines, which is the coverage for Electric/Fiber.

The Mayor informed the Council that a proposal had been made to the hospital, by the Gas Dept, regarding the difference between propane usage compared to natural gas. The information had been forwarded for the hospitals review.

The Mayor presented the Council with a rough sketch of the old Freezer Lock building with rooms. He informed the Council that proposals for work were being done and this would be presented to the Council at a later date.

Pinning Ceremony

Assistant Chief, Jim Copp went through incidents that happened during Hurricane Michael as multiple employees received their pins.

VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brother Jason spoke of housing and applying with DCA regarding this issue due to housing and the homeless issue. The Mayor stated that this was being looked into before Hurricane Michael and it needs to be readdressed.

David Rolson, with the Early County Health Dept., question the adoption of an ordinance City Attorney Tommy Coleman spoke of the laws and jurisdictions in this matter he stated no final decision has been made

IX) ADJOURNMENT

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

Anthony Howard, Mayor