



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CITY HALL**

**APRIL 2, 2019**

**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. Brother Jason gave the invocation. Mayor Anthony Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Jamie Crozier and Councilman Frank Thornton were present. Councilman Charles Middleton was not present. Also present was City Attorney, Hayden Hooks and City Clerk, Melinda Crook. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II) APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes as present. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

**III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS**

**Gwen Houston – Early Cares**

Gwen Houston spoke to the Council as the Chair of the Early Cares Housing Committee. She spoke of homeless students in 2016 stating that there were around 47. She then stated that since this time she has been glad to see concern, from the City, regarding this issue and spoke of the housing in the current CDBG. She questioned the City applying for GICH. She spoke of what the program does and the need for housing at all income levels. She feels that the City is the most qualified to apply. The Mayor stated that the City is looking into this closely and the housing being done by the CDBG and the housing incorporated in the 2019 CDBG application just submitted. He also stated that the City is looking into the CHIP Grant and if the Council chose would be willing to look into the GICH. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to move forward with the GICH. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

The Mayor showed Special Recognition to Samaritan Favors for his heroism by calling 911 when his mother was in trouble. He then honored the 911 operator who took the call, Natasha Collins, for how she handled the situation. The Mayor then went on to inform the public of the situation that had instigated the phone call.

Ms. Erica Henderson, from the Pataula Children Center addressed the Council and public to remind everyone to wear blue every Friday in April to continue to show awareness of child abuse. She stated that number are down. She also went through issues abused children face in life.

#### **IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

##### **Machelle Hutchins Bail Bondsman License**

The Building Official, Mark Hawkins, addressed the Council stating that everything regarding the application was just about complete. He stated that he was unsure of the escrow account and the \$2,500 in assets. He stated that these are the only items missing to finish completion of the application process. Councilman Crozier questioned if these items would hold up approval or approval be given pending these two items. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the application pending the two outstanding items being completed. The motion carried with Councilman Crozier, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH" with Councilman Hutchins abstaining due to conflict.

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

##### **Resolution MGAG Voting Delegate**

A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the voting delegate list as present. The Mayor stated that this list could be changed if needed. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

##### **Adopt Restated Retirement Plan Documents**

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the restated retirement plan documents adding the Police Department and Recreation Department if the employees added are full time. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

##### **Second Reading & Adoption Of Campground Ordinance**

A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Adoption of the Campground Ordinance to allow temporary camping parks with some exclusions. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

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

The City Clerk present the Council with financial reports. She also present final budget adjustments which she informed the Council she had confirmed with the auditor that they could still be done. A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the budget adjustments as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present. Councilman Crozier questioned if there were funds left over that are owed to the Department of Public Safety after the conversion over to City Police Department. The Mayor stated that there wasn't due to what he understood due to the fact that we did not have an agreement in place and that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman was looking into this along with the City Auditor, Perry Henry.

Craig Hughes gave a powerpoint presentation of the financial report to the Council and public. He summed up stating that Revenues are up over Expenditures.

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

Craig Hughes updated the Council and public on the Fire Department/Government Complex. He stated that 911 will be the first to move in, around the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. He stated that they are doing final paint & floor covering. He stated that the Fire Marshal would be in the next week for final inspection and that then the City architect and the USDA architect must do their final punch list. He stated that the project is still under budget and on time.

Craig Hughes informed the Council that the ROW still has to be finished up and once complete, GDOT will give the cost. He then spoke of the GDOT variance due to the utility poles.

Craig Hughes informed the Council that the debris pickup will be complete very soon

Chief Caudill went through the police report for March. He then thanked all the Department Heads for their assistance during Peanut Proud.

Mike Newberry came before the Council and thanked the City for their support. He spoke highly of everything that the City had done to assist with Peanut Proud.

The Mayor briefly went through the Fiber report

The Mayor stated that the closing had been done on the Shriners Club purchase.

The Mayor informed the Council that the hot water heater, at the Civic Center, had been fixed and that new faucets were being installed.

Councilman Hutchins questioned if the bills had gone out late due to receiving several calls. The City Clerk stated that they had gone out two days late. He also questioned tanker trucks putting something in manholes. The Mayor reminded the Council that this was the leachate, from Waste Management that had been approved by the Council. He stated it is being put at a location so that it breaks down well before it reaches the plant.

Councilman Crozier stated that it looked like the tennis courts on Meadowbrook are being used again and he questioned if this was City property. He stated that he had found a grant to update the courts. He asked Councilman Hutchins to check with RDC about writing the grant. The Mayor found that the City does own the tennis courts on Meadowbrook.

### **VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ann Sewell thanked the Police and Council for working on the loud music and other issues in her neighborhood.

Travis Wimbush asked that larger notices for special called meetings be put up and to please add it on the marquee. He questioned the temp service employees stating that if the Council was given City insurance could temp service employees be considered as well. He spoke of the City's purchase of the old Freezer Locker and the changes in the plans with the purchase of the Shriners Club.

Brother Jason invited the Council and public for the National Day of Prayer May 2nd on the Courthouse lawn.

Meredith Whitehead questioned where the campgrounds were going. The Mayor stated that nothing was currently in the works and the Ordinance was being put in place in anticipation.

### **IX) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the April 2nd City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor