



## Blakely City Council Minutes

July 6, 2021, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

I. Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush called the meeting to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember Al Hutchins, Councilmember Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Brad Clenney were all present. Also present was the City Attorney Flin Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook. After a moment of silence Mike Newberry gave the invocation. The Mayor and Councilmembers led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Work Session, Regular Meeting and Joint meeting with the County. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

III. Citizens And Delegations

Restored House

Minister LaTonya Townsend came before the Mayor and Council to request use of the City property on Liberty St for an event with a gospel artist. She stated that there would be activities for the kids as well. She also stated that the event was free and local citizens would be allowed to participate. She informed the Mayor and Council that the event would be on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve use of the City lot on Liberty St. for the event. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Angie Carter – Survival Flight

Angie Carter, a Survival Flight representative, spoke to the Mayor and Council about the survival flight service. She informed the Council that survival flight has two locations, one in Colquitt and one in Headland, Al. She stated that the service cost \$45 for individual and \$50 for family or a group cost of \$40 and that these costs were per year. She also informed the Council that they have third rider seats. She stated that with the \$40 charge there would be no additional cost with insurance and the usual 20/80 split. She also stated that if one helicopter is busy than another would be made available. She also stated that they have options if the weather was to ground the helicopters. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if the Councilmembers were included to participate and if the \$40 charge included the Mayor and Councilmembers. There was brief discussion between the Council. The Mayor suggested this item be tabled for budget review. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett for further discussion. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present



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Early County Community Involvement Assoc

Ms. Aretha Tinson addressed the Council regarding the new voter law and ID requirements. She asked that a voter ID machine be purchased due to the number of people that may need ID's. She stated that presently a person would have to travel to Cuthbert or Bainbridge to get an ID. The Mayor asked the City Attorney whether the City could go through the process of obtaining a voter ID machine according to the State law. The City Attorney stated he would have look into whether the City could by law purchase and produce ID's.

She then spoke on the restoration of the Civic Center. She stated that the center be restored to mirror the way a municipal building should look. She addressed the bathrooms needing updating, the way the walls look inside as well as the kitchen area.

#### IV. Administrative Committee

Adam Askew – Uniform Quotes

Adam Askew brought back before the Mayor and Council an additional proposal for direct purchasing. He stated that Unifirst has been the only one of the companies that provided this proposal. He stated that they had also provided a lease program for if the employees washed the uniforms and if they washed the uniforms. There was a brief discussion about how the current service operates. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to go with Unifirst as the next company to provide uniforms for the City employees. The Mayor stated that the only thing he would ask is that Adam find out what the City employees perform to do, be it purchase and they wash or lease and the company maintain. The Mayor also asked if the Councilmembers wanted to continue with a three year agreement to which they were in agreement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Caudill gave his monthly report. He also spoke to the Council a little more on the Survival Flight stating that this could be an additional benefit, if the City chose to include it, when looking into new hires. The Mayor questioned Chief Caudill on loud noise complaints not showing on the report. Chief Caudill informed the Mayor and Council where it was located in the report and that he just forgotten to bring it forward. Councilmember Hutchins questioned pictures posted on FB assault rifles in local clubs. Chief Caudill stated that it was his understanding that this is part of a security team. He stated that he had checked the law and found nothing stating this was prohibited. He then stated that he didn't feel this was a good idea and also that this is a disaster waiting to happen. He also stated maybe the City Attorney could look into this but that he had found nothing in the law prohibiting this. He then spoke of the activity on Church St. for the holiday weekend. He providing the Mayor and Council with a brief written summary. He felt there was violation to the ordinance regarding operation after midnight on Sunday and that

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they were still open due to having the liquor by drink license. He spoke of an officer being injured. He then asked the Mayor and Council if a special called meeting could be held regarding the ordinance and other items the Police Dept has been facing to get something put on the next agenda if possible. The Mayor stated they would follow up regarding the meeting. Chief Caudill also spoke on a software for State certification. He stated this could take years and is not cheap but feels it will help reach a goal for the City's Police Dept. He stated that he had spoke with several other agencies about the State certification. Chief Caudill then questioned about several employees that came over to his department with leave. He spoke on staff shortages and that it has been hard to use leave. He stated that he had about six employees that will lose vacation leave and is asking the Mayor and Council to consider options for this such as buy out or carry over again this year. Councilmember Jarrett questioned if Chief Caudill wanted approval at this meeting on the software item. Chief Caudill spoke on the options and cost of the software. He stated that if you chose the year by year the cost was around \$17,884 but if you chose the three-year commitment the cost would be \$13,973 but still invoiced year by year. Councilmember Jarrett questioned if the software is available presently. Chief stated that it was but doesn't know how long it would take to get up and running. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the purchase of the Power DMS software over a three-year period. The Mayor questioned where this would be purchased from. There was a brief discussion about the budget and whether to purchase this year or put into next years budget. The motion carried with Councilmember Jarrett, Councilmember Clenney and Councilmember Hutchins voting "Yeah" and Councilmember Davis voting "Nay"

### Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

E-911 Director Matt Hromalik gave the monthly E-911 report stating that there was a total of 4,990 calls. He then stated that the battery backup, at the tower, was complete. He also informed the Mayor and Council that he had three employees waiting for training. Councilmember Hutchins questioned about training schedules as to when they start and Councilmember Jarrett questioned the length of time for certification. Matt informed the Mayor and Council that there are about 1 ½ classes per month and that the certification takes 40 hours Monday thru Friday.

### Lane Davis – Estimate for Civic Center

Lane Davis provided the Mayor and Council with two quotes on replacing the siding at the Civic Center and the roof on the backside bathrooms. He stated that there was a quote from Singleton Construction in the amount of \$28,267.34 and the second quote from Mulkey Brothers Construction in the amount of \$52,500.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the quote from Singleton Construction in the amount of \$28,267.34. Lane informed the Mayor and Council that the quote

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had only been good until May and that updated quotes, from both parties, would be gotten due to metal costs possibly changing. Councilmember Hutchins then stated that the motion would be for whichever company is the lowest bid once the quotes are updated. The Mayor stated that \$50,000 had been placed in the budget for renovations. The Motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

### V. City Attorney's Report

#### General Election Ordinance

The City Attorney Flin Coleman read the General Election Ordinance as a first reading. The City Attorney was asked to make corrections to the location for the elections and the address for qualifying at City Hall. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the Ordinance dispensing of the second reading making the necessary corrections. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

#### Gas Rates / Georgia Pacific agreement

The City Attorney Flin Coleman read the Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the Ordinance for Establishment of a Rate Schedule for Sales of Natural Gas to Large Volume Industrial and dispense with the second reading. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

### VI. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with financial reports. She then gave a presentation for the public. The Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that the auditor felt he would have a draft of the audit by mid-July.

### VII. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

#### Vac Truck

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the purchase of a vac truck from Adams Equipment in the amount of \$397,713. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. It was determined that the wrong company name had been stated in the motion to approve. The City Attorney stated that an amended motion could be done to put the record straight. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to amend the motion and approve the purchase of the vac truck from Vactor in the amount of \$397,713. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

#### Bid Tab Water & Sewer Work Dean, Deal, Angus

It was stated that two bids had been received at the bid opening. After a start of approving each item individually the Mayor suggested one motion be made on the full proposal from each



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company. He then stated that one bid was from Blankenship Contracting, out of Dothan, in the amount of \$397,180.25 and the second from POPCO, out of Sylvester, in the amount of \$433,116.32. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the proposal from Blankenship Contracting in the amount of \$397,180.25. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

Councilmember Hutchins questioned an area being cleaned up on North Ave and Main St. He asked if the City was cleaning up this area due to seeing an employee he didn't recognize on the excavator. The Mayor stated that it was the City cleaning up this area.

The Mayor stated that an employee has submitted a request for leave donation due to coming close to being out of leave. He then stated that according to the policy he had provided the Council he would ask that the Council approve allowing other employees to donate even though he is not completely out but would be during the next pay cycle. He stated that this was against policy which is why it was being asked of the Council to approve this request. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the waiver of the policy for the donation of leave request. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

The Mayor stated that he had provided a copy of the travel reimbursement regarding mileage reimbursement. He then stated that he had put in place that if a City vehicle was available that vehicle be used instead of personal vehicle due to City funds. He stated that a request had been brought up to use personal vehicle due to not being able to take family such as spouse/children because insurance does not cover anyone other than employees in a City vehicle. The Mayor asked if the Council wants to waive policy and allow employees to use personal vehicles or stay with policy and use City vehicle if available. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to waive policy and allow employees to drive personal vehicles to do City business. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

The Mayor brought to the Council's attention of the City of Blakely signs that were taken out during Hurricane Michael or others ways. He asked the Council if they would like to get quotes on getting new City of Blakely signs. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Davis to proceed with getting quotes to replace the City of Blakely signs. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

The Mayor asked the Council about getting sign price quotes to acknowledge alumni athletes that have made it to professional league. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve getting price quotes on a sign to acknowledge



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alumni athletes that have made it to professional leagues. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor informed that the contractor was moving forward on two more of the 2019 CDBG homes. He also stated that it would depend on the cost of materials as to whether the final home will be able to be constructed or renovated. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if the City had torn down the homes to which the Mayor stated the contractor had done that work. Councilmember Hutchins then stated that they had not completed the clean up because there were trees still in the areas.

The Mayor stated that there was a request for resurfacing of the parking in the cemetery and fence repair. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to get price quotes for resurfacing and fence repair. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if City employees could do some of the work to which the Mayor stated the City could not do resurfacing and the fencing was for the front fence which had been installed by a contractor. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor made the announcement that Charlie Wade was June employee of the month.

### VIII. Public Comments

Tim, an Adams Equipment representative, questioned the process regarding the proposals for the vac truck and acceptance of the quotes.

Celia Bostwick thanked the City and several departments for their assistance with the firework display. She thanked the Building Official Mark Hawkins for resolving items before bringing them to the Council. She reminded everyone of the market on the square the upcoming Saturday and another on July 24<sup>th</sup>. She stated the Chamber was having a job fair on July 14<sup>th</sup> and one in Miller County on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Todd, President of VacCon, questioned about the guidelines regarding the bid process. He also spoke of this not being apples to apples. He spoke on the legality of the process that had taken place. He spoke of his equipment having two engines to the one chosen only having one engine. He stated horsepower is money. He asked that the item be readdressed and table to look at the legal ramifications of bid specifications. He spoke of the way the process has taken place in other areas they have done business in.





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### IX. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to enter executive session for personnel and land purchase. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to enter back into regular session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

A motion was made Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to accept Lane Davis as Water/Sewer Supervisor. The motion carried with Councilmember Jarrett and Councilmember Clenney voting "Yeah" and Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Davis voting "Nay" The Mayor broke the tie with a vote of "Yeah"

The Mayor informed the Council that the election ordinance and the establishment of the rate schedule for natural gas to large industry needed to be readdressed to dispense with the second reading. The minutes presented reflect these motions.

### X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the July 6 City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

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Travis Wimbush, Mayor