



Blakely City Council Minutes

August 3, 2021, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

- I. **Public Hearing – Zone Change Request N Main St**
The Mayor called to order the public hearing. Kenneth Jones came before the Mayor and Council stating that a public hearing was held on July 26th with the Planning Commission. He stated that both sides presented their sides. He stated that the Planning Commission recommended approving the project to the Mayor and Council. He then stated that the land owner withdrew her request. The Mayor asked the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, that if the applicant withdrew her application was there a need to hold this public hearing. The City Attorney stated that there was not. The Mayor informed the public that there was not need to take actions due to the withdrawal.
- II. **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 Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Brad Clenney. Councilmember Al Hutchins was present by Teleconference. Also present was the City Clerk, Melinda Crook and by teleconference City Attorney Tommy Coleman. There was a moment of silence for those that have lost their lives by COVID or other reasons. Celia Bostwick gave the invocation. The public was led in the Pledge of Allegiance
- III. **Employee of the month**
The Mayor stated this employee was not in attendance at the meeting. He then stated that Stephanie Hanks, Utility Billing Supervisor, was this month's employee of month. He stated that she had been with the City for 16 years, she has a good work ethic and stated that moral in Utility Billing had increased dramatically.
- IV. **Approve Minutes**
A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the minutes from July 6 work session, July 6 regular meeting and July 27th work session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present
- V. **Citizens And Delegations**
No One
- VI. **Administrative Committee**
Chief Caudill gave his monthly report. He stated that activity was up from June. Councilmember Jarrett questioned if there was any progress from the work session. Chief Caudill stated that he was working on the questions to email to the City Attorney. The Mayor stated any changes would be after the City Attorney's opinion. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if club owners



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could be made to post “No Weapons Allowed” signs at their buildings. The City Attorney stated that due to legislation allowing weapons to be carried he felt it would be difficult. Chief Caudill reiterated the City Attorney’s opinion.

Director Matt Hromalik gave his monthly update stated that there was a total of 5,305 calls between E911 and admin.

Kenneth Jones updated the Mayor and Council about the communication tower. He gave a brief history on the old tower and the cost of the new one that was installed 2010/2011. He spoke of the other agencies who have equipment on the tower presently. He then talked about the agreement for sharing of cost for the upkeep. Kenneth gave a breakdown of the cost associated with the tower (utilities, insurance, backup generator, tower lights which one is out and if they come, they replace all and regular tower maintenance (\$4,000)) He stated he just wanted to bring to the Mayor and Council’s attention about looking into a cost sharing agreement. He presented a sample agreement to the Mayor and Council for consideration. The Mayor questioned the City Attorney about reviewing the sample agreement to put one together that could be discussed with the other agencies in a work session. The City Attorney stated that they could get an agreement together.

VII. City Attorney’s Report

First Reading Of Ordinance Amending Zoning Ordinance

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, explained the Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance. He stated that this was to be able to remove members of the Planning Commission for abandoning the job. He stated that Kenneth had called regarding chronic absenteeism of some members. He stated that this was a way to remove them properly. He stated this was the first reading.

Solar Agreement

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that this was an agreement with MEAG to take part in the purchase of electricity from a solar field. He stated that this was mainly put together for those cities with Walmart’s but that for the City of Blakely this was to purchase additional electricity. He reminded the Mayor and Council that this would supplement the power the City had to purchase from another city.

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Solar agreement with MEAG. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if the City had to have a Walmart. The City Attorney stated that the City did not have to have a Walmart. He stated that cost per kilowatt was very low. He also stated that this helps fill the gap that the loss of SEPA power had presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember’s present



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Resolution For Financing Of The Vac Truck

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the resolution for GMA financing of the vac truck. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

VIII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk gave the Mayor and Council financial reports for June. She then gave a powerpoint presentation for the public.

The Mayor asked the Council to review the budget adjustments/amendments presented by the City Clerk. He went through the amendment items in the amount of \$213,530.78. He went through the amendment items individually.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the budget amendments/adjustments prepared by the City Clerk.

The City Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that the audit report was being reviewed and will be scheduling the exit meeting shortly and should be at the next regular Council meeting.

IX. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Zone Change Request N Main St - No action was taken due to applicant withdrawal

The Mayor updated the Council on the surplus sale. He stated an advertisement was run in the paper and on the City's FB page. He stated that this is the first week the sale is underway and there have been bids on the items.

The Mayor informed the Council that the bid is back out for the Gateway project and that then bid were due in September and there would be a meeting at that point.

The Mayor updated the Council that the Komatsu has been inspected. He reminded the Council of the approval for a new piece of equipment. He stated that presently rental equipment is being used due to the small excavator being in the shop.

The Mayor stated he had two bids for repaving at the cemetery. He stated that the first bid was from Mike Floyd Paving in the amount of \$196,000 and the second from Mickey Rice for \$89,000. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the quote from Mickey Rice in the amount of \$89,000. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present



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The Mayor discussed getting bids on upgrading the bathroom facilities at the Civic Center to current standards. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Davis to get bids for upgrading the bathroom facilities at the Civic Center. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to accept the agreement for Economic Development as presented by the County. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if the City would have representation to which the Mayor stated that it would work like in the past. The Mayor stated that the amount of \$45,000 be continued per what the Council agreed to and a yearly review of the employee's performance. The motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to amend the previous motion to state the City's contribution be \$45,000 instead of \$50,000, which is presently stated in the agreement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to make the wearing of masks in City facilities optional. Councilmember Hutchins questioned why would we get rid of the masks. Councilmember Clenney clarified that he wasn't proposing to get rid of the mask altogether just optional. The Mayor spoke on the vaccinations. He then stated that if this is put in place than any sick or quarantine time is taken the policy in the handbook be followed regarding time taken. The motion carried with Councilmember Clenney, Councilmember Jarrett and Councilmember Davis voting "AYE" and Councilmember Hutchins voting "NAY"

The City Attorney informed the Mayor and Council that the City could not get a machine to produce voting ID's and that this is reserved for the County Board of Registrar's. The City does not have the authority

I. Public Comments

There were no public comments

II. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to adjourn the August 3rd City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor