



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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

Let to record show that Mayor Anthony Howard called the meeting to order. Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman Charles Middleton and Councilman Al Hutchins were present. Let the record show that Councilman James Crozier was not present. Also present was the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. Councilman Al Hutchins gave the invocation. The Mayor led the Council and Public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes from the August 6th and August 27th City Council meetings. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

III) Citizens And Delegations

Early County Community Involvement – Jeanette King Park, Utilities, Excessive Policing
Mr. George Brown presented the Council with several items that had been brought up in a community meeting. There were items about the Jeanette King Memorial Park, utility bills and described what was felt as excessive policing. The Mayor stated that the Council would like to address these concerns of the citizens and asked if two weeks to respond would be agreeable with Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown stated that the two weeks was acceptable.

IV) Administrative Committee

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Caudill gave an update on the August activity. He also stated that Animal Control was having a high number of calls. He spoke of training events that had been hosted in the new training center of the Government Complex building. He informed the Council that the Police Dept and Fire Dept were discussing the possibility of a haunted house, in October, in the Government Complex building

Craig Hughes – Updates

Project Manager, Craig Hughes, had a power point presentation of the July financials. He then updated the Council and public on the ongoing City projects, such as, CDBG, Gateway and several others. He spoke of items that need to be done at the Civic Center such as painting, metal work and a few others. His presentation also included average cost of electric, water, sewer and an average bill. Craig then informed the Council and public that the City had been awarded the 2019 CDBG, which is only for housing, in the amount of \$750,000 and that this would incorporate houses on Church St. He also spoke of some other grants that the City was looking into to which Councilman Hutchins if there were grants for utilities. Craig stated that he was not familiar with all grants available and that would be better looked into by someone who was more familiar.

Planning Commission conditional use - CBD

a. Teddy Waller,

Building Official, Mark Hawkins briefly explained that Mr. Waller was trying to sell his building at 34 N. Main and the prospective buyer wanted to open a business and have a loft apt in the building, therefore needing the Conditional Use due to being in the Central Business District

b. Payton Smith

Building Official, Mark Hawkins explained that Mr. Smith had purchased property at 2063 S. Main St and wanted to renovate the property for apts geared toward seniors, therefore needing the Conditional Use due to being in the Central Business District. The Mayor stated that the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission was re-working the Ordinances to incorporate these types of items so that it no longer needed to come before the Council and that this should be done by November. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to table both Conditional Use items (Ted Waller and Payton Smith) to wait on the changes in the Ordinance, by the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

V) City Attorney's Report

There was a first reading of the Ordinance Establishing Rules & Regulations Governing the Installation of Small Cell Wireless Facilities. The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that a hearing would need to be held on this item next month and that it has to go before the Planning Commission

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk provided the Council with the written financial reports to go along with the presentation by Craig Hughes. Councilman Hutchins requested one other item be added to the presentation by Craig, that the Council receives from the Clerk.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

The Mayor restated that the City of Blakely had been awarded the 2019 CDBG grant in the amount of \$750,000. He reiterated that this grants only includes housing and that the location was Church St and North Ave.

VIII) Public Comments

Ritchie Smith, Margaret Zachary, Mr. Henderson, Brother Jason, Alice Hutchins, Billy Powell were citizens who addressed the Council on issues about the Police Dept, manholes that have been covered, FTTH placed on utility bills and items at the Jeanette King Memorial Park.

IX) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the September 3rd City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Anthony Howard, Mayor