



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
CITY HALL**

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**

**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. Mayor Anthony Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman Charles Middleton and Councilman Al Hutchins were present. Councilman James Crozier was not present. Also, let the record show that City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present. Councilman Al Hutchins gave the invocation and then the Mayor and Council let the 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 August 7<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

**III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS**

**IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Planning Commission request for conditional use for bed & breakfast at 14807 River St**  
The City Attorney explained that an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance requires a public hearing.

**V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Authorizing B&Bs As A Conditional Use**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to table the second reading of the Ordinance Authorizing B&Bs as a Conditional Use. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

**Second Reading and Adoption of Municipal Court Clerk Ordinance**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the Municipal Court Clerk Ordinance. The motion carried by Councilman present

**Second Reading and Adoption of Planning Commission Ordinance**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the Planning Commission Ordinance with the monthly pay to be \$50.00. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

**VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

The City Clerk presented the Council with financial reports. She then went through the July, last fully completed month, totals of the budget, department revenues/expenditures and how much percentage of departmental budgets are left to expend. Councilman Hutchins

questioned the figures being shown on the projector. The Clerk explained that she would have them ready to be placed on the projector.

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

**Flu shots for employees** - The City Clerk stated that the Council has approved Flu shots for the City employees for years. She informed the Council that the Health Department administers the shots at City Hall. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve Flu shots for employees. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

**EMC Agreement** - The Mayor reminded the Council that this item had been tabled last month for clarification on items for additional work on the Gateway project. He stated these items are the construction agreement, the Nationwide permit and the stream buffer variance along the Big Ditch which total to \$13,750. He reminded the Council this was tabled so that the contract with EMC could be reviewed and that it had been forwarded to Tommy Coleman's office. He stated that the contract had been executed in 2010 and has since expired. He stated that Lodge Holman had been consulted regarding this matter and that Mr. Holman advised that he wouldn't consider changing companies since EMC has been on this project since 2010 and that it would be extremely more costly. He reminded the Council/public that the City has not funded this full project to date, that Barton Rice had funded the project for several years. He stated that the project is moving forward in a positive manner and he reluctantly recommends approval of these charges to keep the project moving forward. Councilman Hutchins questioned funding and if available to which the Mayor stated that it was available. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the EMC agreement for the additional charges. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

The Mayor informed the Council/public and the City was awarded the \$1,000,000 CDBG Grant. He stated that this is the first Grant that the City has received that includes a housing component. He stated that the City can apply for another \$1,000,000 grant for several more years. Councilman Thornton clarified that it would houses in the North Ave. area. Councilman Hutchins questioned if there was a certain number of houses. The Mayor stated that the homeowners would have to provided limited funds and that houses had already been identified in the grant area.

The Mayor asked Craig Hughes to address the Council regarding bids on resurfacing Church St. The Mayor stated that only one bid had been received. Craig stated that the project would start at Chattahoochee and end at MLK which is 1.33 miles. He stated that the project included milling the present pavement and resurfacing with 1 ¼ inch asphalt. He stated the cost was \$210,000. He stated that the City would be doing some work to reduce cost, manhole covers and clean up. There was discussion regarding the railroad right of way. Craig stated that the ad had been placed on the Ga Procurement website but that no one could be Oxford because of the asphalt transportation cost. The Mayor stated funding would be LMIG plus City match with additional funding. There was discussion on the time frame and funding. Held over for Special Called Meeting.

Craig updated the Council on the Fire Department/Government Complex. He stated that the roof should be on by next month and then work will move more quickly. He stated that all is going well.

Councilman Hutchins questioned Kenneth Jones, as Safety Supervisor, about employee related accidents who reports. Kenneth explained the process on workers comp accidents and vehicle accidents. He questioned if these incidents are reported to the City Clerk. Council Hutchins asked that from this point forward a report is submitted to the Mayor on any and all employee related accidents. He then questioned the Clerk about the letter received regarding higher utility bills for some people. Matt Hammond suggested setting up a group e-mail for the Mayor and Council for these items.

#### **VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Mayor clarified about Public Comments. He stated that this has become a question/answer session, and this is not the intent of the public comment section. He stated that the Council wants to keep the public included however asking multiple questions is not the appropriate way to handle this section. He stated that if there is a matter that someone would like to go into depth about then fill out a public speaker form to be placed on the agenda so that the Council can be prepared to respond.

A citizen spoke of cars along the side of the road, on Mulberry, trash in the road, bushes need to be cut, when she calls the jailhouse others are told she calls, loud music and a condemned house has lights on.

Priscilla George stated that the tire company that closed on N. Main St left tires and needs to be cleaned up. She stated that child safety was an issue. The Mayor stated that the foreclosure would be taking place in October and that this issue would be addressed at that point. He also stated that there were Ordinances in place to address this issue

The Mayor stated that he appreciated the public participation. He stated that all want to see and keep the City clean and safe.

#### **IX) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the September 4<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor