



Blakely City Council Minutes

September 7, 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 present. Also present was the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. The Mayor referenced a display set up to honor the 13 service members killed in Kabul. There was a moment of silence for those service members and for those whose lives have been lost due to COVID 19. Commissioner Charlie Sol gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Employee of the month

The Mayor asked Mr. Randy Wimberly to come forward. The Mayor stated that Randy is a boom truck operator and that several citizens had commented on Randy's work performance. The Mayor stated that Randy had only been with the City for a little over two months. The Mayor then stated that Randy Wimberly was the August employee of the month.

The Mayor then recognized Adam Askew with a Certificate of Recognition for 30 yrs. of service. He stated that Adam has been employed with the City since September 3, 1971.

III. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the minutes from August 3rd and August 19th along with the work session from both meetings. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

IV. Citizens And Delegations

Perry Henry Audit Report

City Auditor Perry Henry gave a presentation to the Mayor, Council and citizens of the 2020 audit. He explained some of the audit process. He went through assets and liabilities stating that there was a net increase to the City of 1.2 million. He informed the Mayor and Council that City wide revenues were down \$597,000 and that expenses were down \$996,000. He then stated that the Governmental Fund revenues were up \$954,000 and expenses were down a little over 2 million. He mentioned the COVID funds and capital projects that were completed in 2019 which was a good part of the expenditure decrease. He spoke on the enterprise funds stating that the revenues were down in these funds around 1 million and expenses down around \$600,000. He then spoke on the light fund. He stated that segregation of duties is still a finding, but this is being worked on but will probably continue because it is very hard to segregate all the duties. He stated that he sees this in most cities. He also stated that because of all the Federal Funds the City had received the single audit also had to be done. He recommended that capital

CITY of BLAKELY

P.O. Box 350 | BLAKELY, GEORGIA 39823

TELEPHONE: 229.723.3677 | FAX: 229.723.2520

www.cityofblakely.net



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assets be taken back over by the City. He asked the policies continue to be put in writing. He then spoke a little about the ARPA funds and the accounting and compliance for these funds. He stated that the audit was a good clean report.

V. Administrative Committee

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Will Caudill gave his monthly report. He then gave an update on the Police Department staff. He stated that one officer was out due to an accident, one has resigned to go to the nuclear plant. He stated that several cadets had been in training but had not completed due to different issues. Councilmember Hutchins asked Chief Caudill how many officers he presently had to which Chief stated there are 14 but moving to 13, with the resignation, and that only 11 are working the roads and that includes the investigators. There was discussion about the training.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

E911 Director, Matt Hromalik, gave his monthly report stating that a total of 5,404 total calls had been received for the month.

VI. City Attorney's Report

Second Reading And Adoption Of Ordinance Amending Zoning Ordinance

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that this Ordinance has been presented due to Planning Commission members who have not attended Commission meetings on a regular basis which has caused quorum issues. He stated with this Ordinance the Council can remove a Commission member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Planning Commission. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Ordinance Amending Zoning Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Elections Agreement

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that this was an agreement between the City, County and Election Superintendent for the purpose of the Election Superintendent holding elections for the City of Blakely. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Intergovernmental Election agreement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, presented an Ordinance amending chapter 3 of the City Code regarding the closing time of premises on the sale of alcohol. He stated that there was some misunderstanding of how to enforce the on-premises consumption of distilled spirits. He stated that some establishments had gone ahead and started serving due to not having to prove



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50% sale of foods and that this amendment would correct that issue. Tommy Coleman stated that this was the first reading. Chief Caudill stated that this came about from a work session in which he was instructed to put his concerns in an email to the City Attorney. He also discussed the hours of sales and closing. He stated that he would be putting the Ordinances side by side and would bring any concerns or changes to the City Attorney. Chief stated he still have concerns of the food sale and the timing of reporting.

VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with monthly financial reports for the last fully completed month which was July. She then gave a power point presentation of these financials for the public.

VIII. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Set Mileage Rate

The Mayor informed the Council that the extension, for passage of the millage rate, had been granted. He then stated that the proposed millage rate was 4.2 which was the same as the previous year. The Ordinance amending the City code of the City of Blakely by adopting a new ad valorem tax. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Ordinance setting the 2021 millage rate at 4.20 and dispensing of the second reading. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Reappoint Anthony Yarborough To The Housing Board

The Mayor informed the Council that the Blakely Housing Authority was requesting approve to reappoint Anthony Yarborough to the BHA Board. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if there was something that showed the number of years members were on the board to which the Mayor stated they are four year terms. He then asked how someone gets appoint to the BHA Board. The Mayor and City Attorney stated that the BHA makes the recommendation to appoint board members however the Mayor could make the appoint and that the City has no actual say so about who gets nominated to be on the BHA Board. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the reappointment of Anthony Yarborough to the Housing Authority Board. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Fire Alarm System & Security System

The Mayor informed the Council that there are currently some components that are out of warranty and outdated. He stated that the options were to either fix the outdated components and software or investigate another system that is non-propriety. He informed the Council that if the choice was to stay with the current system there are additional charges when repairs are needed such as travel and hourly rates of their technicians. He stated that the cost of new



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system was slightly higher than the repair cost however with the additional costs it may be more beneficial to look into a non-propriety system. He informed the Council that additional quotes were pending. He stated that figured would be provided at the next meeting for the Council to take action

The Mayor informed the Council that the sidewalk project is moving forward on Liberty St. and is about half way complete.

The Mayor informed the Council that the work has started at the Civic Center now that materials had been received.

The Mayor informed the Council that the work on Angus, Dean and Deal would be starting soon and that the contractor had been waiting on materials.

The Mayor informed the Council that some funds are being applied for directly from the State which would be for the water towers and some other projects. He stated that the engineering was assisting with the application which had a deadline extension to the end of October. He stated that about two million dollars in projects were being submitted.

The Mayor spoke about the additional employees, discussed in the work session, that are currently on the back of the garbage truck being turned into full time positions instead of the part time positions they are at currently. He stated that being full time would entitle these employees to be eligible for benefits also. He stated that this change could be accounting for in the ARPA funds. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to proceed forward with advertising for the positions. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor informed the Council of an increase in COVID cases and please continue to follow safety protocols. He reminded the public that the vaccine is free

Councilmember Hutchins questioned if anyone from the City is overseeing the work at the Civic Center. The Mayor stated that he had asked the Building Official to oversee this project.

IX. Public Comments

Charlie Sol asked about the facilities or equipment being cleaned at the Jeanette King Memorial Park. The Mayor stated that the restrooms are being cleaned and then stated how hard it is for the City to monitor the usage. He stated that it would be good for the parents to bring disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer due to the equipment not being cleaned. Charlie Sol also



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question the 50% sale of food in establishments that have on premise consumption of distilled spirits and that food is not necessarily sold at the same time as the alcohol.

Randy Wimberly asked about excavating behind his house on Arlington Ave. He asked if anything had come before the Council about a truck stop being built behind his house. The Mayor stated that nothing had been brought to the Building Official about anything being built.

X. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to enter Executive Session for personnel and litigation on sale of property. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to separate the Landfill and Sanitation Departments and make Gabe Jordan over the Landfill and advertise for a Foreman position to be over the Sanitation Department. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the County for the Economic Development. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor asked Lane Davis to brief the Council regarding the replacement of all the City water meters and ERT's. Lane informed the Mayor and Council of a Grant/Loan that the engineering would apply for regarding conservation and being conservation could also deduct 1% of the loan interest rate. Lane stated that the engineer had quoted a 1.13% interest rate but with the conservation deduction it would be .13% for a 20 year loan, .07% for a 15 year and a .008% if 10 years. He then stated that the 20 year total price would be between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. He then stated the rough payments would be \$2,110 per month or around \$25,000 per year. He stated for a 15 year it would be \$2,800 per month or around \$33,600 per year. He stated this would allow all the residential and small commercial water meters to be exchanged to all one type of meter instead of three or four different types and the typed chosen to work the best with 100W ERT's to give better automated reporting. The Mayor then stated that the only thing being requested is for the Council's approval to get figures and if they are interested in proceeding with the grant application on behalf of the City. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to proceed with moving



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forward with the application process/investigation. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the September 7th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor