



Blakely City Council Minutes

Work Session

September 7, 2021, City Hall, 5:00 P.M.

- I. The Mayor presented the Council with an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County regarding the Economic Development position. The Mayor stated that since the Council had not given recommendations he and the Commission Chair Jester had gotten together and came up with the terms for the City to pay \$45,000, the County to pay \$50,000 and the Development Authority to pay \$20,000 per year. He stated the rest was standard. There was some further discussion.

The Mayor stated that the City has lost the two faithful workers on the back of the garbage trucks and that he would like the Council to consider making these positions full time instead of part time. He went on to explain some issues happening in the Sanitation Department and the amount of work orders coming in due to trash being missed due to not having steady workers in place. He then stated that due to this being supplemental pay ARPA funds could be used. He stated he had rough figures on pay. He asked the Council to consider a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour and the ARPA funds could be used for the difference in pay from \$9.00 per hour to \$10.00 per hour. There was discussion on the benefits the employees would receive. There was discussion about the issues with fill in drivers and fill ins on the back of the garbage trucks and how taxing the job can be.

The Mayor brought up issues in the IT Department that came to light in the server migration. He suggested that a consultant get hired to come in and evaluate the positions in the City to give a foundation on what should be done moving forward. He then spoke of positions that may be needed but the Council doesn't currently know exactly where more positions may be needed. He spoke on money issues and items being approved when the Council may not know where the City stands financially. He spoke on losing employees due to the competitive market. He then spoke of a person he interviewed for IT and some issues in this area and what the cheapest previous IT person had been hired for which is why he is recommending looking at a possible restructure through a consultant. He stated that two main things he is asking for is another person in IT, at no fault to Chris, and the second is the change of the employees on the garbage truck from part time to full time. He stated that he felt what the IT person, he interviewed, is asking for in salary, at a rate of \$50,000, was cheaper than

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previously hired IT employees. He went on to talk about the issues that took place during the server migration and some issues that are still not corrected. He also discussed what is currently being done in IT. He spoke on issues that could come up on Cybersecurity and that the City may not be prepared and doesn't know it isn't prepared which all goes back to needing more knowledgeable staff in IT.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor