



JANUARY 7, 2014

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

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

The Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Torre' Mills, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Andy Smith and Councilman Charles Middleton were all present. Mr. Mike Newberry gave the invocation. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

II) Swearing in of Councilmen

Mayor Anthony Howard administered the oath for the swearing in of Councilman Charles Middleton. Mayor Anthony Howard administered the oath for the swearing in of Councilman Al Hutchins.

III) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the December 3rd and December 9th minutes. The motion carried unanimously

IV) Citizens And Delegations

Mike Newberry Peanut Proud - Mr. Newberry came before the Council to speak for the new organization, Friends of Peanut Proud, Corp. He informed the Council that they formed the organization to keep the Peanut Proud festival in the City of Blakely. He stated that the festival actually belongs to Peanut Proud, Inc. and that if Blakely chose not to continue hosting the festival that there were other areas that would host the festival. He informed the Council that they were working to continue looking for more local support, regional support and farmers support then they have already. He asked that the City continue to help with their in-kind functions and services. He stated that the festival was being planned for March 22nd, which is the last Saturday in March. He informed the Council that attendance has been about 5,000 to 8,000 people and that they were looking forward to bringing in 10,000 to 15,000 this year. The Council Mills asked Mr. Newberry why a new corporation was developed. Mr. Newberry informed the Council that this was to have local control. Councilman Hutchins then asked Mr. Newberry if he knew which other City's wanted the festival.

Johnny McMurria – Building code variance request - Mr. McMurria was not in attendance and the Mayor informed the Council that the issued had been resolved.

V) Administrative Committee Reports

Safety policy and Seat belt policy - Kenneth Jones came before the Council to inform them of a grant program through risk management, in the amount of \$6,000, and that these items would have to been in place for the City to be considered for this grant program. He stated that these monies could be used for safety equipment. He stated that the safety coordinator would need would need to attend three four hour classes. He then explained the seat belt policy. Councilman Mills questioned who the safety coordinator would be and Kenneth informed him that he had been doing the job but that the Council could place whomever they wanted in the position. Councilman Mills stated that he felt that the discipline action in the policy was a little stiff. He also questioned who would actually enforce the seatbelt policy. Kenneth stated that offenses go to the department head to manage any type of disciplinary action. The Mayor than questioned if the seat belt policy was adopted could the disciplinary action be taken according the City's current personnel policy. Kenneth stated that it could be set by the Council. Councilman Hutchins questioned if anyone else had shown interest in being the safety coordinator and how someone goes about being appointed and if there was an assistant. Mayor Howard informed Councilman Hutchins to see if he could find someone to be the assistant safety coordinator. There was discussion regarding when and how the seatbelt policy would take effect and how the employees would be made aware of the policy. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to adopt the safety and seatbelt policy with the disciplinary action to be the same as the current personnel policy states and the have Kenneth Jones as safety coordinator. The motion carried unanimously

Municipal Competitive Trust-New Bucket Truck

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the transfer of funds, in the amount of \$169,864, from the Competitive Trust Flexible Operating account for payment of the new bucket truck. The motion carried unanimously

VI) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading And Adoption Of Brown Bag Ordinance - The City Attorney explained that since the repealing of the Brown Bag Ordinance was started in 2013 section 2, the last sentence in section 3 and the last sentence in section 4 would need to be removed. There was then some discussion between the Council and the City Attorney about the current Ordinance and the Ordinance to repeal. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to not adopt the Ordinance to repeal the Brown Bag Ordinance. The motion carried with Councilman Mills abstaining.

Approve the Elections Contract with the County - The City Attorney briefly explained some past discussions regarding this contract. He then explained that the City also pays for voter registrar services, two at \$125.00 each and the chief registrar at \$350.00, and that he does not know of any other City that pays for services that they registrar's have to do anyway. They Mayor then stated that per this contract the City would only reimburse the County on election years. The Mayor then stated that the County started the process, the previous evening, to start a County Board of Elections. The Mayor then stated that he does see how we cannot follow the agreement and not pay the Probate Judge \$500.00 a month. Councilman Mills then questioned the voter registrar payments and was informed that that was a totally separate agreement and would have to be handled separately. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to readopt the Elections Contract with the County. The motion carried unanimously

Renew contract for sheriff services - The City Attorney briefly explained the contract. The Mayor stated that the agreement was made with a step up each year. The City Clerk informed the Council that this year's amount would be \$1,041.30 per month starting in January. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded Councilman Mills to renew the Sheriff's contract in the amount of \$1,041.30. The motion carried with Councilman Mills, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Middleton voting "Yes" and Councilman Smith voting "No."

There was a first reading of an Ordinance changing the due dates for the Occupational Tax licenses.

VII) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the financial reports to the Council. She informed the Council that the City finished the month with \$49,298.01 in the bank. She informed that \$20,000 had been transferred back into each the Combined Utility and Combined Savings accounts and then stated that with these transfers the full \$200,000 that was previous borrowed out of these accounts was paid back. She then informed the Council that the cash on hand in the Combined Savings Account was \$498,844.28 and that at Commercial State in the Combined Utility Account \$394,366.67, in the DOT Reimbursement Account \$36,762.82 for a combined total of \$428,129.49. She informed the Council that the balance in the LMIG Account was \$18,003.92. She informed the Council that the full total of cash on hand at year end was \$944,977.69. She also informed the Council that the 2014 LMIG paperwork had been submitted and that the first bond payments of 2014 were due February 1st totaling \$176,818.13. She informed the Council that she had been in contact with the new audit firm and that the audit should commence April 1st. She then informed the Council that the City's MEAG representative, John Giles, had been hired as the President/CEO of Electric Cities. She then asked the Council if the bid proposals could be placed in the paper for the Gas Department pickup truck which had been placed in the SPLOST budget in the amount of \$26,000. Councilman Mills question the specs on the truck and the Clerk informed the Council that the specs would be the same as the 4dr truck purchased the previous year. There was then discussion between the Council why a 4dr truck needed to be purchased and why all departments were not purchasing 4dr trucks. It was stated that the request was made during the budget process and that it was passed in the 2014 budget. A motion was then made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve putting the 4dr pickup truck, for the Gas Department, out for bid not to exceed \$26,000. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Smith and Councilman Mills voting "Yes" and Councilman Hutchins voting "No."

VIII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Recreation Board appointment - Recommendation from the County - The Mayor informed the council that this item was coming back from the County and that the County did not agree with the City nomination. The Mayor then stated that he felt that there needed to be discussion between the City and County regarding a nomination. Councilman Hutchins then questioned the County's nomination and was informed by the Commission Chair, June Merritt, that the County nominated Michael Allred. The Commission Chair then informed the Council that the consensus of the Commission was to stand by their nomination and that they would agree to accept anyone that the Chairman of the Commission and the Mayor would agree upon. It was then stated by Councilman Hutchins that the City was standing by their nomination. Councilman Mills then stated that he felt that a discussion between the Council and Commission would be best because there were reasons why the City's nomination had been made. He

stated that had been complaints and that the City nomination was so that someone would be on the board to voice concerns regarding how things are handled in their districts. The Commission Chairman stated that there were reasons why they chose not to accept the nomination and that she had gone to the Rec. Director and stated the issue and that he had informed her that if no agreement could be made that a 3rd nomination would need to be made. She also informed the Council that she asked if he had anyone that he could recommend and that was because she asked him for one.

The Mayor then updated the Council of the issues at Southside, Angus and Willow Glen. The Mayor informed the Council that the City had rented the pump again for the 39 lift station and that the situation was under control at the present time. The Mayor then informed the Council that he along with the Clerk had met with Jeff Jones and D'arcy Stewart regarding some possible alternatives to maybe lessen the expense. Jeff Jones then informed the Council that he and D'arcy were working together to go back through the videos and gather further information regarding the changes that were being considered. The Mayor also informed the Council that the work at the cemetery is working well at the present time. Councilman Mills asked for a brief update on the previous work that has already been done to try to alleviate some of this issue. The Mayor gave the update.

Councilman Hutchins reminded the Council that the Mayor Pro Tem appointment had not been placed on the agenda. It was also stated that the meeting dates for 2014 needed to be set. The Clerk stated she would have the reappointments and meeting dates put on the agenda in February.

IX) Public Comments

A citizen came before the Council to question how far behind limb pick up was and to question if the City could do something about repairing her driveway. She also question why others on Mulberry Ln. didn't have to maintain their lots when she did and why cars continued to be parked in the street to be worked on

X) Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to enter into Executive Session regarding personnel matters. The motion carried unanimously

Upon returning to regular session Pokey asked the Council if they would allow him to use crush-n-run in his parking lot on GA Pine. Pokey stated that he would concrete the two handicap parking spots. The Council question what type of building this was going to be and was informed that it would be an event center. Pokey then stated that if allowed to do the whole lot in crush-n-run it would allow for more parking. There was then some discussion between several Council members and Pokey regarding his current suggestions and other options. Councilman Mills stated that he would agree to 9 spaces in concrete (2 handicapped and add 7 facing n. Main) along with a concrete walkway with the rest of the parking to be crush-n-run. A motion was made by councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the parking layout as Councilman Mills had proposed. The motion carried with Councilman mills, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Middleton voting "Yes" and Councilman Smith voting "No."

XI) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn the January 7th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Anthony Howard, Mayor