



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

January 8, 2013

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Councilman Mills gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led the Council and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Let the record show that Mayor Howard, Councilman Mills, Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Smith were all present. Also present were the City Attorney Flynn Coleman, City Clerk, Melinda Crook, Utility Director, Charles Jenkins and Fire Chief, Kenneth Jones.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the December 4th, December 19th and December 27th minutes. The motion carried unanimously

III) Citizens And Delegations

Wanda Hudson – basis of selection for CDBG - Wanda stated to the Council that she was here to assist the Council in proper procurement of the CDBG Grant. She informed the Council that ad's had been run on the RFQ, which is for an architectural or engineering firm, and an RFP, which is for Administrative duties. She then informed the Council that only one response had been received on the RFQ, which was Paul Simonton, and only one response had been received on the RFP, which was from GW Hudson Consulting. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Basis of Selections for the RFQ, Paul Simonton and the RFP, GW Hudson Consulting. The motion carried unanimously

Mayor Calvin Cox of Leary – animal control - Was not present

Algin R Merritt – parking lot issues - Mr. Merritt addressed the Council regarding the December 27th meeting. He stated that he is being held to different standards than other businesses in town. He believes that these are oversights and he then presented information to the Council about some of the other businesses in question to show inconsistencies. Chief Jones then addressed the Council regarding the information Mr. Merritt had presented to the Council. He stated that if a business location changes uses then its classification changes, but if the business stays as the same type they continue to fall up under the same guide lines as previously under. The Chief then went on to explain the Ordinances according to the parking. Councilman Mills stated that minutes would need to be looked at regarding when the Ordinance was put into place and see if these other business were possibly Grandfathered in and that a worksheet could be created to present showing business types, originating date, Ordinance they fall under etc... Mayor asked Torre, if project was put together, to follow up on

completion. There was then some discussion between the Council and Mr. Merritt regarding the timing issue and that he had been informed it could be resolved within 60 days. Councilman Mills reminded Mr. Merritt that the Council had honored their word on that when the Ordinance change had been presented at the December 27th meeting, where it did not pass.

Homer Reddick – sewer tap at 385 Dean - Mr. Reddick addressed the Council regarding a sewer tap fee that he had paid for 385 Dean Ave. He stated that he felt he should not have had to pay the fee because when he purchased the house it was already tapped into City sewer and that he should not be penalized because whoever ran the line previously had not done so legitimately. There was some discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding the Ordinance in question. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve refunding Mr. Reddick’s sewer tap fee in the amount of \$500. The motion carried with Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voting “No” and the Mayor breaking the tie with a vote of “Yes.”

Eddie Mells - Speeding in Neighborhood - Mr. Mells addressed the Council regarding speeded on Flowers Ave. between Chattahoochee and Cedar. He asked that more speed limit signs be put up and possibly some speed bumps of some sort. He stated that there are no sidewalks in the area so anyone walking has to walk in the street. He also stated that cars continue to cut the corner by coming over on the other side of the street. The Mayor stated that the issue could be taken to Public Safety and asked if law enforcement could monitor it more closely.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Bids for emergency generator - Two bids had been received and were opened at the City Council meeting. One bid was from Cummins South in the amount of \$5,363.00 and the other was from Surgen in the amount of \$4,999.00. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the Surgens bid in the amount of \$4,999.00. The motion carried unanimously

Bids for Asphalt Plant - Three bids had been received and were opened at the City Council meeting. One bid was from DeLance in the amount of \$72,547.50, one bid was from Benton GA LLC in the amount of \$109,961.00 and one bid was from RAW Construction in the amount of \$98,120.00. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the DeLance bid in the amount of \$72,547.50, for the Oxford Asphalt Plant. The motion carried unanimously. Danny Williams then updated the Council on where the City was in the process and that the City had the permit from the State and had submitted the paperwork and payment for the permit from the Railroad.

V) City Attorney’s Report

Second reading of alcohol ordinance - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Alcohol Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously

First reading of ordinance setting compensation for Mayor and Council - There was a first reading of an Ordinance setting compensation for the Mayor and Council.

First reading of election ordinance - There was a first reading of an Ordinance fixing and publishing qualifying fees for offices subject to election in the year 2013.

VI) City Clerk's Report

Clerk present the Mayor and Council with monthly financial (Expenditure for December, Rev/Exp comparison report and cash on hand report). She informed them that the cash in the bank at year end was \$77,242.09, per the Rev/Exp report revenue was still down \$113,064.75 but expenditures were down \$422,874.87 thus a net to the good of \$309,810.12. She then informed them that the cash on hand total was \$1,079,911.45 (savings and DOT accounts). She informed the Council that she could not provide revenue reports for Dec. as of yet due to accrual reversals. The Clerk then updated the Council on the issues with the January billing, but that the bills had been sent to the mailing company on the 2nd of January. There was then some discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding an extension to the 10th penalty date but no changes were made.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Appointment to recreation board

The Mayor informed the Council of two City positions open on the Recreation Board and presented to the Council the Rec. Directors recommendations of Dr. Chase Brooks, to fill Ed Norman's position, and Dr. Garrett Bennett, to take the place of Mark Masoner. Councilman Mills then asked that Tony Thompson be considered for the Ed Norman vacancy. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve Tony Thompson, to replace Ed Norman for a three year term and Dr. Garrett Bennett, to replace Mark Masoner for the balance of his term. The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to reappoint William Mills as the City Court Judge. The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to nominate Councilman Smith as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to appoint Councilman Smith as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made to reappoint Councilman Middleton and Councilman Mills to the Public Safety Board. The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to reappoint Councilman Hutchins as the City's representative to RDC. The motion carried unanimously

Review and approve RFP for yard debris pickup

The Mayor presented the Council with finalized Invitation for Proposal for limb and debris collection service RFP. He then informed the Council that he was working on a spec sheet for bids and asked that any ideas on specs that the Council may have be communicated to him by e-mail. A motion was made by

Council Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Invitation for Proposal. The motion carried unanimously

Resolution Changing Verbiage in Employee Handbook

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Resolution amending the personnel policy removing section 11.02(F)(4) regarding the sale of vacation. The motion carried unanimously

Councilman Hutchins discussion alternative forms of speed bumps.

The Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, addressed the Mayor and Council requesting approval to go out for bid for the two pickup trucks placed in the SPLOST budget, one for the Electric Dept. and one for the Water Dept. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Utility Directors request to go out for bid for two pickup trucks.

VIII) Public Comments

A citizen spoke to the Council regarding limb and debris pick up on Mulberry stating that it was not being done.

Charlie Sol addressed the Council regarding the Rec Director submitting replacements for the Rec Board. He spoke to the Council regarding the speed breaks because of children placing basketball goals in the road and speed on some streets.

Robert Evans addressed the Council regarding information on the street about him retiring or applying for disability. He directly asked the Council if the information had come from them or if they knew where the information may have come from due to he had not plans of doing either.

IX) Executive Session

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

After the Executive Session the Council discussed with the Rec. Director restrooms at Washington Park. The Rec. Director, Stephen Bonner, informed the City that due to the property belonging to the City the funding for this project would be the City's responsibility. The Council did request that Mr. Bonner attempt to get a cost on this project or other alternatives to building new restrooms. There was then discussion regarding hours of use for Washington Park for law enforcement.

X) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the January 8th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Anthony Howard