



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 5, 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 Smith 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 Tommy Coleman, City Clerk, Melinda Crook, Utility Director, Charles Jenkins and Fire Chief, Kenneth Jones.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the January 8th minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

II) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

CHARLES JENKINS OR JOHN GILES FROM MEAG

The Utility Director, Charles Jenkins and John Giles, from MEAG, explained to the Mayor and Council that because of the continued rising cost of Environmental factors, approximately a 160,000 increase to Blakely, there was a very good possibility that the City would need to re-implement the Power Cost Adjustment, which the City had just stopped charging with the January billing, per the Cost of Service Study. Mr. Giles explained that when the Cost of Service Study was done preliminary budget figures were used and it was not until the final budget, in November was issued, did anyone have an idea that the City's purchased energy figures would decrease. It was explained that if our purchases of Electric, from MEAG, increase then that will affect the figures being looked at, at the present time. Councilman Smith informed the Council that he had been in attendance at a meeting with Mr. Giles where this was discussed and he felt that we may be able to hold off on re-implementing the PCA until June or July. Mr. Giles then gave the Council several different scenarios on how to keep the PCA as low as possible even when or if re-implemented. He also informed the Council that if they chose not to apply any other monies to the MEAG bill the City could possibly lose approximately 580,000 if usages stayed as projected. The Utility Director and City Clerk informed the Council that they look at the figures every month and would keep the Council informed.

The Utility Director informed the Council that the date for the MEAG Annual meeting was April 17th & 18th and that the meeting is being held in Blakely this year.

The Utility Director then asked the Mayor and Council for permission to put out for bid for the new bucket truck. The Mayor reminded the Council that this had been approved in the current budget. The Council agreed to let the Utility Director go out for bids on the bucket truck. The Utility Director then discussed going out for bid on the new garbage truck, which was also approved in this year's budget. He then informed them that two different trucks were being looked at and that there was about a 60,000 difference in prices between the two. The Mayor then discussed with the Council the two different types of trucks and asked that more information be gathered on both trucks so that the Council could go over the information at the next meeting.

The Utility Director then brought to the Council the renewal of the Electric Cities contract. He informed the Council that the City was decreasing the services provided by Electric Cities in 2013, bring the City's cost down. The City Attorney informed the Council that the contract is the same as usually submitted and that he found nothing wrong with the contract. A motion was made by Council Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the Resolution for the Electric Cities contract. The motion carried.

The Utility Director updated the Mayor and Council on the landfill project. He informed them that power had been run and that the majority of the materials had arrived. He stated that he was hoping to have the project completed by the next month.

The Utility Director the Mayor and Council on the Cedar Springs pumping station project. He informed them that there had been a few issues with the easements but the project should be starting soon. He also informed the Mayor and Council that the County had agreed to let us use their excavator.

MINISTER JAMES E SCURLARK, CHURCH OF CHRIST - NOT PRESENT

HEATHER ALLRED – ALCOHOL ORDINANCE - Ms. Allred came before the Council the voice her complaint regarding the “on premise consumption” Ordinance. She stated that she and other business feel that the cost was way too high and that there was not enough time given for payment of these fees. She stated that the cost of these fees could possibly close some business down. Several other business owners spoke up regarding the matter. The City Clerk explained to the Council that it had been brought to the previous Mayor’s attention and was asked that a letter be written giving the business owners a year notice before the Ordinance was implemented. She then explained that she had thought the Fire Chief would write the letter, due to being over the Business License, and that the Fire Chief has thought that the Clerk was going to write the letter and that it had never gotten done. The Clerk then explained that upon finding out that nothing had been done regarding this matter she again brought it to the Mayor’s attention and was told to put the Ordinance in place on the current years license renewals. There was discussion between business owners, the Mayor and Council and the City Attorney. The City Attorney stated that Councilman Smith had asked him to amend the current Ordinance dropping the fee from 500.00 each, for beer and wine licenses, to 200.00 each, for beer and wine licenses. The Council agreed. There was First Reading of an Ordinance to amend the “On Premise Consumption” Ordinance.

AUDRA CLAYBROOK – TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB - ALCOHOL ORDINANCE - Ms. Claybrook stated that her issue was covered by Ms. Allred.

GARY PRUITT - Not present

III) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

BIDS FOR TRUCKS - Two bids were submitted. A bid in the amount of 26,401, from Hattaway motors, for a 2013 F150 Crew Cab pick-up truck and a bid in the amount of 18,521, from Hattaway Motors for a regular cab pick-up truck were submitted. A bid in the amount of 21,857, from Thompson Motors , for a 2013 2x4 regular cab pick-up truck and a bid for 28,025, from Thompson Motors, for a 2013 2x4 Crew Cab, were submitted. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the bids from Hattaway Motors for the F150 Crew Cab and regular cab pick-up trucks. The motion carried unanimously

BIDS FOR TRACTOR AND MOWER - Four bids were received for the tractor and mower. A bid in the amount of 14,965 was submitted from Town and Country Equipment, a bid in the amount of 23,770 was submitted from Northside New Holland, a bid in the amount of 18,200 was submitted from SunSouth and a bid in the amount of 15,695 was submitted from Wells Tractor. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to accept the bid from Town and Country Equipment in the amount of 14,965. The motion carried unanimously

OPINION OF ADAM ASKEW REGARDING THE REPORT FROM US TANK ON THE WATER TANK ON HWY 39

The Mayor informed the Council that an inspection was done on the tank on Lucille Road. He stated that per that inspection, we do know that work does need to be done to the tank inside and out and that it will be very expensive. He stated that it does not need to be done right away but does need to be factored into future numbers.

IV) CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

COURT SQUARE DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT - The City Attorney explained that this is the same contract as last year and recommended it be approved. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Court Square Development Contract. The motion carried unanimously

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE SETTING COMPENSATION FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Mills to adopt the Ordinance setting compensation for Mayor and Council. Councilman Smith wanted to state that he opposes the fact of a public official voting to raise their pay. The motion carried with Councilman Mills, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Middleton voting “Yes” and Councilman Smith voting “No”.

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ELECTION ORDINANCE A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adopt the Election Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE TO ABOLISH THE ZONING BOARD - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adopt the Ordinance abolishing the Zoning Board. The motion carried unanimously

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2001 SPLOST AGREEMENT

The City Attorney explained that this resolution was to turn the old theater building & remaining 2001 SPLOST funds over to the County in exchange for the piece of property next to the Fire Department. The City Attorney also explained that all the City's involved in the initial SPLOST agreement have to approve this agreement. The Mayor informed the Council that the remaining amount left in the 2001 SPLOST fund was 237,000. Councilman Smith questioned the urgency of the exchange. The Mayor briefly explained how this arrangement came about. A citizen spoke up regarding the consideration of the citizens and Art Council before it is renovated for offices. Another citizen suggested that the SPLOST funds stay with the City for the possibly of another theater. Councilman Mills stated that he feels that the building is a liability to the City and that hopefully this is a way to finally get the building repaired. Councilman Smith made a motion to table the Resolution for further Council review. The motion died due to a lack of second. A motion was then made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the Resolution approving and authorizing execution of an amendment to the 2001 SPLOST Agreement. The motion carried with Councilman Mills, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Middleton voting "Yes" and Councilman Smith voting "No".

AMENDMENT TO THE 2001 SPLOST AGREEMENT - Goes along with previous item

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE TIME WITHIN WHICH A HARDSHIP MOBILE HOME OR TRAVEL TRAILER SHALL BE REMOVED..... There was a first reading of an Ordinance extending the time within which a hardship mobile home or travel trailer shall be removed.

Chief Jones gave an update on the Merritt Funeral Home parking lot. He informed the Council that Mr. Merritt had concreted a driveway that he would like to fill the area up to the parking spaces with gravel. It was stated that DOT only gave an OK for the driveway to a certain point. The Chief informed the Council that at this point they had the right to sign off on whether Mr. Merritt has satisfied the conditions of the Ordinance. Councilman Mills spoke regarding the fact that he does not agree that the Ordinance is satisfied because of a previous failed attempt to allow Mr. Merritt to put gravel at this location and that Mr. Merritt should have to follow the Ordinance as it states. The Mayor stated that he felt that Mr. Merritt had made a good faith effort to comply with the Ordinance and that he stated that he would continue to work on the property. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve that Mr. Merritt has satisfied the conditions of the Ordinance and allow the Chief to approve. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voting "Yes" and Councilman Mills voting "No"

V) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk presented the Council with their financial information for January and updated December 2012. She informed the Council that 175,000 had been moved into the savings accounts at Commercial State and First State. She informed them that the City had finished the month with 75,407.19 in the bank, after outstanding checks. She then updated them on the cash on hand, First State Bank Combined Savings being 491,783.48, Commercial State Utility Sinking Fund being 477,113.29 and the DOT Reimbursement being 109,670.92 for a total cash on hand of 1,078,567.69 after the bond payments had been made. She informed them the both bond payments were made with 32,528.25 being paid on the City Hall bond and 147,938.13 being paid on the Water Treatment bond. She then informed them that the next bond payments were due in August with the payment for the City Hall bond being 67,528.25 and the Water Treatment bond payment being 362,928.13. The City Clerk informed the Council that she had cashed in the City's CD's totaling 267,000 and with a small additional amount had paid off the City's oldest GEFA loan. She informed the Council that this was due to getting very little in interest return on the CD's and having to pay 5.12% interest on the loan therefore getting one of the debts off the City's books. She then updated the Council on the sales tax refund and that the figure was a refund amount around 57,000 but that she did not know when the check might be issued.

The Utility Director updated the Council on the Oxford project. He informed the Council that we had received word that there was possibly an approval and we were just waiting on the permit.

VI) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

GMA RECORDS MANAGEMENT CLASS - Councilman Mills explained that he felt, because of some things he had learned from his classes at Mayor's Day, someone from the City should attention this class because of changes in the laws. The Council discussed that they felt the Clerk should be the City representative to attend this class. The Clerk then informed the Council that she was scheduled for a class the week before this class. The Council then approved the Assistant City Clerk, Trudie Evans, to attend this class.

PERMISSION TO WORK ON BABYLAND - CITY CEMETARY - The Mayor explained that a group of individuals had come to him to request permission to do some work on the section of the City Cemetery called Babyland. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to allow this group of individuals to work on Babyland in the City Cemetery. The motion carried unanimously.

RFP LIMB AND DEBRIS PICKUP - This item was postponed until the next meeting

POLICE BIDS - Sheriff Price informed the Council that he had gotten bids from Thompson's Motor (2011 Capris - 24,300), (2013 Tahoe - 28,200) and bids from Brannen (2011 Capris - 23,900) (2013 Capris - 27,475), (2013 Tahoe w/lights - 29,855), (2013 Tahoe wo/lights - 27,800). There was some discussion regarding the local vendor preference. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the bids for the 2011 Capris and the 2013 Tahoes from Thompson Motor Company.

ANIMAL CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ARLINGTON

The City Attorney explained that this would be Arlington bring animals to the City of Blakely and to fall under the City Ordinance. The fee was then questioned. This item will be addressed at a later meeting.

The round tables at the Civic Center were questioned. Councilman Mills stated that he had not actually given a number as to how many were wanted. Councilman Mills and Councilman Hutchins then discussed getting five tables.

Bathrooms at Washington Park were briefly discussed.

VII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Mills to enter into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously

IX) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the February 5th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Anthony Howard, Mayor