



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**MARCH 4, 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. City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present. Councilman Mills gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

**II) Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the February 4, 2014 minutes. The motion carried.

**III) Citizens And Delegations**

**Gwen Houston** – Alcohol Prevention – was not present

**Carolos Yousef** – Variance for Building – Mr. Yousef explained to the Council that the building was a shed for pine straw and that this building is temporary until he can expand. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, explained the distance from the right of way required by the ordinance and that this building does not meet the current set back requirements. There was discussion that not all other businesses were held to the Ordinance set-back. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the variance on the set back. Motion carried.

**Toby Warr** – Variance property on 39N – Mr. Warr stated that he wanted to build an office building with 2 bays for equipment storage. Kenneth Jones stated he was waiting for site plans but that regulations call for concrete under the whole structure. Mr. Warr wants to put concrete only under the office portion and put rock under the equipment bays. He presented a set of drawings to show the Council his plans for this site. Zoning for this location is AG and his work is AG. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the variance. Motion carried.

**IV) Administrative Committee Reports**

**Conditional Use Nancy Wright Building on North Church** – Mrs. Wright wants to have a church at 987 N Church St and all churches go through conditional use. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the conditional use. Motion carried

**Discuss Date for Workshop for Zoning Map** – Kenneth Jones explained that due to many requests a workshop needs to be held with the Council and SWGRC to

update the zoning map. Mayor requested that Kenneth get some dates from the SWGRC and then get back with the Council.

**Gabe Jordan** – Request to go out for Bids on Garbage Truck – Gabe came before the Council to request going out for bids for a garbage truck that was in the 2014 budget. He stated that all the trucks are in pretty bad shape. He presented a quote from November for a rear load garbage truck. A motion to go out for bids on the garbage truck and present at the next meeting was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Mills. The motion carried.

**Roof at landfill** – Gabe asked for permission to start on the roof repairs needed on the scale house at the landfill. Commission Chair June Merritt was present and gave her ok to proceed with the repairs. Commissioner Taylor then explained their plans for the compactor sites and how the compactors work. There was some more discussion as to the joint compactor site that will be installed at the landfill and the prep work that is needed to be done first. It was explained that some of the prep work would be, some type of fencing, taking down some trees and pulling up the pampous grass.

**V) City Attorney's Report**

**Resolution Drink Referendum** – There was some discussion regarding the requirement that 50% of sales must come from food. The City Attorney stated that we would need to do an ordinance regarding regulation of the alcohol sales. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the resolution to place the drink referendum on the May 20<sup>th</sup> ballot. Let the record show that Councilman Mills voted nay with all others voting aye. Motion carried.

**First Reading of Ordinance Providing Standards for the Naming of Streets** – There was a first reading of an ordinance providing standards for the naming of streets.

**Adopt 2012 State Building Codes** – The City Attorney explained that the law states the building codes and no matter what is in City Ordinance State law applies. Kenneth asked that an ordinance be done to keep the City up with the state law.

**VI) City Clerk's Report**

Financial reports were given to the Council. City Clerk, Melinda Crook, informed the Council that the City ended the month of February with \$228,728.92 in the bank. The City Clerk presented final budget adjustments for 2013 to the Council for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the budget adjustments. Motion carried. The City Clerk also brought to the Council the MEAG voluntary deposits into the Municipal competitive Trust Account. The City has the option to allow the monthly reimbursement to either go toward our MEAG bill or to be deposited in the Flexible Operating Account, Intermediate Extended Maturity Portfolio. The Clerk informed the Council that the new monthly amount will be \$63,203.00. She then stated that the reimbursement amount is currently being deposited in the trust. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to continue depositing the reimbursement into the trust account as is currently being done. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Councilman Mills voted nay with all others voting aye. Motion carried.

**VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council**

**Wyatt Jarrett** – Mayor Howard explained the situation on Wyatt Jarrett Street and informed the Council that the City had gotten a quote on directional boring which was in the amount of \$10,500. He then informed the Council that we already have easements for the area in question. He stated that the line will be gravity fed and will be bored at a slope. Councilman Mills talked to the Council about tying into City sewage. A motion to approve the work was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton. Motion carried.

**Letter from Blakely Cable** – A copy of a letter from Blakely Cable requesting relief of the franchise fees and the pole attachment fees was presented to the Council. A motion to deny the request was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton. The motion carried

**Increase in Security Deposit for Civic Center** - Councilman Hutchins stated there have been problems at the Civic Center and stated that individuals do not care if they lose \$50.00. He proposed an increase of \$50.00, making the security deposit a total of \$100.00. Councilman Mills informed the public that a few were causing issues for all. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to increase the security deposit, however this will not affect people who have already paid their deposit, and it will apply to any new rentals. Motion carried.

**Approving List of Assets for Auction** - The Council decided to accept sealed bids for the items instead of having an auction with the opening of the bids to take place 30 days from date of ad. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the list of items. Motion carried.

**Quotes for Senior Center** – Work to the air condition unit at the senior center was discussed. The Council discussed the differences in the two quotes and the fact that refrigerant 22 is being phased out. The Council then asked that the Clerk get a quote from Paul Chandler for replacing the entire unit comparable to the R-410 quoted by Energy Consultants. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve a new unit for the Senior Center at no more than \$5,075.00.

Mayor Howard informed the Council that we are looking at putting in a gravity fed line under Hwy 62 to pick up the new pharmacy, USDA and Dr. Adams office.

**VIII) Public Comments**

Jeff Jones with Polyengineering updated the Council on the Southside Drive project. He informed the Council he was continuing to investigate on how to correct the issue. He had looked at replacing the current lines, shallowing them up, but that would entail rerouting services. A survey of sewers on Colonial and Southside discovered they are at the correct depth. Jeff stated that we can't take the sewer out of the road as any other placement would be costly. He looked at dividing Colonial in half and re-routing, but there is no cheap fix. Councilman Mills questions the size of another pump station and was informed that the new station would be sized to handle a smaller amount of homes. A motion to allow the engineer to put out for bids on the replacement of the lines on Colonial and Southside was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Councilman Hutchins reported a light out the bypass and Magnolia Street.

A citizen came before the Council regarding a lot that has 3 mobile homes on it currently. He stated to the Council that he was being informed that he would have to subdivide the lots to meet the zoning in that area, before he could replace one of the trailers that he wants to tear down. The Mayor stated that he can take out the existing trailer, but any new one put in would have to abide by current zoning regulations and that if he chose to do this in a flood plain was his business.

Randy, representing a motorcycle club, requested adopting a park in Blakely like they have done in Albany. He stated that the park in question was the old Howell St. Park (park by the barn.) He informed the Council that they would maintain the park if they would be allowed to hold picnic and kids activities there. The City Attorney explained that this has been done in Albany and that he would find out details on legality.

**Executive Session** – a motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to go into executive session.

**IX) Adjournment**

There being no more business a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills. Motion carried.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor