



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

May 5, 2015

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 Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton, and Councilman Smith were all present. One Councilman seat is open. Mr. Harvey McCoy gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Kelley Rollerson and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the April 7th Minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

III) Citizens And Delegations

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Adam Askew – Quote For Well Controller The City Clerk explained that Mr. Paul Simonton could not be present due to an outpatient surgery. She then informed the Council that this quote, from J K Duren, was for a computerized control system which would allow an operator to be able to control all three wells by way of computer. She explained that at the present time there was an older/outdated control system in the Fire Department, which controlled wells #3 and #5 and that well#4 has a fairly new digital controller. She stated that the new system would combine the operations of all three wells under one system. She informed the Council that the quote showed two different options. The Clerk informed the Council that the first option was for the fully computerized system, which would total to \$29,500, and that this price included a \$600 credit for the digital recorder at well #4. She then informed the Council that the second option connected the controller system by radio or cell signal and that the amount for this option would be \$38,450. The Mayor briefly explained to the Council the shape of the system located in the Fire Department and why it was felt that an upgrade was needed. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Smith to table this item until Mr. Simonton was able to be present to update the Council on the entire project. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Planning Commission - Draft Of Updated Zoning Map The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, presented the Council the first updated draft of the zoning map from the RDC for any further changes. Kenneth stated that the process for full completion was for the Council to review, submit any changes, review again and if agreed upon by the Council two public hearings would need to be held before the Council could pass the new map. Kenneth did state that townhouse zoning was not on the map. The Mayor then stated that the Council needed to take some time to look over the map, make comments or add sticky notes with suggestions. He also stated that the public was welcome to do so as well.

Planning Commission - Outdoor Garage Corner Of Liberty & Bay The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that this application was for a garage. He explained to the Council where this would be located. He then informed the Council of the Ordinance for CBD and of the shielding issues, and that per the Ordinances there should only be one business per one lot. The City Attorney then discussed the zoning Ordinances, specifically the CBD Ordinances. Mr. Jones the discussed issues with the set back. The Mayor then stated that as he understood Mr. Jones would go back to the application and inform him of the steps he would need to go through, such as dividing into two lots and setbacks and frontages. The Mayor questioned the City Attorney on how to proceed, which would be to deny at the present time and have the applicant come back once the necessary items had been met. The City Attorney agreed. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to deny the application for the outdoor garage at the corner of Liberty and Bay until all items are completed according to the Ordinances. Councilman Hutchins then brought to everyone's attention that social security numbers need to be redacted. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

V) City Attorney's Report

Contract With Chamber Of Commerce - The Mayor informed the Council that this contract had been adopted by the County and that the changes were to incorporate items regarding the Economic Development employee. He informed the Council that City Attorney Tommy Coleman had reviewed the contract and was making the necessary changes of County to City. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the new contract with the Chamber with the necessary changes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Resolution Amending Employee Handbook – Adding Grandchild The City Attorney, Kelley Rollerson, stated that grandchild had been left off the Resolution which had been adopted at the May 5th Councilman meeting and that this Resolution was to correct the item. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the amended Resolution. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented financial reports to the Mayor and Council. She stated that the City finished the month of April with \$562,941.28 in the bank which was an increase from the previous month of \$116,592.68. She stated again that this was so that the City did not have to pull funds from the savings accounts as billing decreased due to temperatures. She informed the Council that billing for the month of May had decreased around \$200,000. She updated the Council on the audit to this point. She did inform the Council that there have been some issues that have been found from the previous audit. The Mayor brought to the Council's attention that the LOST income was beginning to decrease but that the excise tax should help to make up those differences. She informed the Council that the MGAG refund had been received and that it was \$46,000. Councilman Hutchins asked the Clerk to explain why the utility bills had decreased. The Clerk stated that it was due to temperatures dropping. She stated that this is usual this time of year due to A/C and heat not being run as much at this time. She stated that the citizens will probably see increase again in July or August and September thru October. She also informed the Council that a drawing of the project for the proposed park on Plant St. had been done and that the project was moving forward.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Liability Insurance Quotes

The Mayor informed the Council that we have been with GMA for a couple of years and that we have seen that premium increase and come back a small amount. He informed the Council that per the quotes GMA was at \$99,811 and a local agent, Cornerstone had quoted \$89,495. He stated that GMA last year was about \$114,000. A representative from the local agency briefly went over the proposed policy. There was a slight discussion on the coverage for the electrical distribution that is on the insurance policy. The Mayor informed the Council of the 90 day notification that had to be given to GMA and that the 90 days would be up on June 1st. The Mayor informed the Council that the Clerk, Bob Collier and himself had set down and went over the proposal from Cornerstone line item by line item. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to accept the liability insurance proposal submitted by Cornerstone in the amount of \$89,495. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

The Mayor informed the Council of a meeting with Jamey Crozier, Brian Braun, Ronnie Hall and the City Clerk regarding the Gateway Project. He stated that this meeting was to get Jamey, himself and the Clerk updated on the project. He asked that Jamey speak to the Council regarding this matter but that he felt that the Council would not be ready at this time to make any decision but may need to do so soon possibly in a special called meeting. Jamey spoke of the bills that were being received and that he wanted to get a handle on them and how the monies have been spent. He spoke of the project and the pieces that are included in this project such as a business center, parking lot, entrance driveway, bridges, welcome center with restroom, landscaping, etc... He stated that the City and County were very lucky to have received the \$800,000 in grant funds. He then stated that it is his job to now to figure out how much has been spent and on what and how much is left to be spent. He stated that there is about \$66,500 of design fees that has yet to be bill and an archeological survey of \$7,085 and beyond construction fees of \$14,100 that will be owed. He stated that would put it around \$87,000. He stated that the sum of the original plan was around \$125,000. He stated that he was waiting on an answer from DOT about the archeological survey but that he feels it will probably have to be done. He also stated that he feels that the project can be done. The Mayor then informed the Council that he had asked of another project similar to this within a 200 mile radius so that he could go look at and he was informed that there wasn't one. He also stated that he had asked for more firm numbers and that at the time of the meeting that could not be given. He then informed the Council that the property that was going to be used was now out of option which could through another problem into the project but that we could not even entertain moving on the property until further along in the project.

The Mayor informed the Council that he had asked Jeannie Clark to bring the Council up to date on the cemetery. The Mayor briefly explained the expansion of the cemetery in an area where Lodge Holman had surveyed out. Ms. Clark asked if there were any policies or procedures for the cemetery. The Mayor questioned Ms. Clark if she was familiar with other cemeteries to which she stated that she was. The

Mayor questioned if she was aware of what other lots are being sold for at other cemeteries and how that might compare to what the City lots are being sold for. The Mayor also requested that Ms. Clark bring to the Council other city's rules and regulation for their cemeteries and that the Clerk would check to see if our City has any.

The Mayor informed the Council that the paving on Southside Dr. had been completed and that the sides were in the process of being dressed up. Councilman Middleton questioned the dirt alley to which the Mayor stated was still not open because they were waiting on it to settle good. He then informed the Council that he had requested that some crushed rock be placed at the entrance of the alley to keep the dirt from washing away as easily. Councilman Smith stated that the citizens of Southside were happier now.

Councilman Hutchins questioned having indoor/outdoor carpet installed at the entrance to the Civic Center.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Clerk would be contacting Council members to set in on interviews for the Customer Service Representative.

VIII)Public Comments

A citizen spoke of her concern for the young people in the community regarding the possibility of parks in the area with playgrounds. Councilman Hutchins informed her that this had already been discussed and that the City was in the process of working on one. The Clerk re-informed the public of where the City is in the process and the Mayor reminded the public that the City had put \$50,000 toward the project. The Mayor also reminded the public of the grant that the City was applying for to rehab the Bessie Scott Gym.

Commissioner Sol commented on the installation of pool for the younger people in the community.

IX) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the May 5th Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor