



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES**

JUNE 9, 2015

CITY HALL

5:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Anthony Howard called the meeting to order. Let the record show that Mayor Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton, Councilman Andy Smith and City Clerk Melinda Crook were all present. Note that one Council seat is open.

II) Gateway Project

Economic Development Employee, Jamey Crozier, spoke to the Council regarding the Gateway Project. Mr. Crozier stated that it was recommended by the Mayor and Council that he review where the project was so far. He stated that there has been \$87,240 spent to date toward the \$200,000 match. He also stated that some additional work that needs to be done can count toward the match as well. He stated that we have a detailed schedule signed off by DOT and that there have been other submissions. He informed the Council that the air quality impact study and received a waiver from EPA. He then stated that this showed DOT that we are moving forward thus re-establishing our commitment to the project. He stated that we have all the necessary permits in place with the Corp, which is a good accomplishment. He stated to the Council that he recommends that we continue to move forward with the project. He also stated that his only hesitation is due to the issue with the land. He informed the Council that he could not get a waiver on the archeological survey and reminded the Council that the estimate for that was \$7,800. There was discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding the possibility of having to move the site. It was stated that monies, to this point, would be lost and the process would have to, technically, restart from the beginning. Mr. Crozier informed the Council that we are about two steps away from the land acquisition to move forward. The Mayor questioned funding, to which the Clerk informed him that she did not think that it had been placed in this year's budget due to nothing having taken place last year. The Mayor then stated that a budget adjustment could be done to incorporate this cost. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to proceed forward with this project. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present. The Clerk questioned if a separate motion needed to be made for the archeological survey cost, to which the Mayor and Council explained it was their intent that it be incorporated in their motion to move forward.

III) Building Codes

The Mayor informed the Council that there were some issues with the 2012 building code and that he had received some phone calls due to these issues. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, spoke to the Council regarding a residential sprinkler issue that had arisen at the new Jubilee home. He then informed the Council that he had investigated the issue further because he had remembered something he had read. He informed the Council that there was a 2014 amendment which took the residential sprinkler system out of the building official's hands and placed it back into the contractor or owners hands. There was then discussion regarding smoke detectors. He explained how and when there should be smoke detectors and when they should or should not be hardwired in the home. He brought a picture to the Council showing a rental property and the items that would require some structural repairs and a permit. He informed the Council that per the building code hardwiring smoke detectors would be required. He then presented the Council with some estimated costs of smoke detection products. The Mayor asked that Mr. Jones just work with people, in

instances like this, in a manor to which they can afford. He re-affirmed that Mr. Jones has to use his discretion, in dealing with homeowners, on the building codes.

IV) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

The Mayor informed the Council that there had been another phone conversation with Tanalus and that the price had come down and would probably continue to fluctuate until all the meters had been installed. The Clerk informed the Council that the current cost estimate was \$342,000, which incorporated the meters, Tantalus quote and the gas ERT's. The Clerk informed the Council that the cost could also come down another \$3,000 due to being able to retrofit the 115 collector meters instead of getting brand new meters. The Mayor stated that we had received the Tantalus agreement and Excleron prepaid agreement and that he had forwarded them on to the City Attorney for review.

The Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that she had been in contact with the Online Utility Exchange regarding credit checking applicants for service. The Mayor briefly explained how this system worked. Councilman Middleton questioned if this system would show if an applicant had utility bills outstanding in other areas. The Clerk informed the Council that this service was \$30.00 monthly plus 2.85 per request report.

The Clerk informed the Council that a settlement agreement had been received by our attorney stating that the old skating rink on E. South Blvd. would be torn down within 90 days and completely cleaned up.

Councilman Middleton asked about the hours on Church St. He stated that he understood issues on both sides but that he kind of agreed with the patrons. He then stated that the argument is where are they going to go. It was questioned why the Ordinance originally got changed to which Councilman Hutchins stated that he felt it was due to the death of a pregnant woman on Church St. There was some discussion about how things were handled in the past. Councilman Smith stated that in Athens, GA they flash the lights at 11:00pm for everyone out at 12:00am. No decision was made at this time.

V) Public Comments

VI) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn the June 9th Special Called Meeting. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Smith and Mayor Howard voting "YEH."

Anthony Howard, Mayor