



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

July 1, 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 Andy Smith and Councilman Charles Middleton and Councilman Al Hutchins were all present. Councilman Torre' Mills was not present. Reverend Williams gave the invocation. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, the City Clerk, Melinda Crook and the Building Inspector, Kenneth Jones were also present.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the June 3rd minutes with a correction to be made of South Blvd to Southside Dr regarding the sewer project. The motion carried unanimously

III) Citizens and Delegations

Fletcher Thompson – Property on E South Blvd - Was not present

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Planning Commission – Variance for Taylor Bridges – Willow Glenn The Building Inspector, Kenneth Jones informed the Council that Mr. Bridges would like to make an addition to cover his pool and that the set back would only have 22 feet instead of the 30 feet set back, per the Ordinance. Mr. Jones then informed the Council that the Planning Commission approved the variance. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the variance. The motion carried unanimously

Special 1 day Alcohol License – Sharon George - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the special 1 day alcohol license for Sharon George. The motion carried unanimously

Special 1 day Alcohol License – Francis Hutchins - The Council was informed that Ms. Hutchins was actually requesting two Special 1 day alcohol licenses. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Special 1 day alcohol license for both days as long as she paid the fees required for the second day. Councilman Hutchins questioned the hours of operation for the Saturday night request and was informed by the City Attorney that the function should close down at 12:01 due to no alcohol on Sunday. The motion carried unanimously

Special 1 day Alcohol License – Katrina Johnson Favors - The Mayor stated that upon his review of the application section #9 (designating a resident of the City to be responsible for any matter relating to the license) had not been completed. He questioned as to whether Public Safety checks the applications to assure that they are completed correctly. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Special 1 day alcohol license as long as section #9 was completed.

Special 1 day Alcohol License – Donald Wright - The Mayor stated that again section #9 was not completed. A Public Safety representative commented that they approve due to the dates of the history on the offenses (background check). A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to approve the license as long as section #9 was completed. The motion died due to a lack of second. A motion was then made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to deny the alcohol license. The motion carried unanimously

Kenneth Jones questioned if the designee needs to be approved and have a background check as well. The Mayor stated that Kenneth just needs to make sure to explain all matters regarding the license to the designee.

V) City Attorney's Report

Discussion of Ordinance Consumption by the Drink - The City Attorney explained the Ordinance again stating that the business must provide at least 50% food. The Mayor questioned the Council regarding

looking at other City Ordinances to possibly come up with suggestions. The Mayor stated that he had seen fees between \$1,500 and \$2,500 so he suggested that maybe they would like to look at something in the middle. The Council decided to set a fee of \$2,000 with a minimum of 50% food. The Mayor then stated that the fee should be pro-rated for the balance of the year. There was a first reading of the Ordinance to permit the sale of distilled spirits for consumption by the drink on certain premises.

Second Reading and Adoption of Tire Ordinance - The City Attorney reviewed the Scrap Tire Ordinance stating that it followed EPD Standards. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to adopt the Scrap Tire Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously

VI) City Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided the Council with financial reports. She informed the Council that the City finished the month with \$88,467.92 in the bank which was a decrease of \$102,872.56. She then stated that the City had cleared the months that tend to be the most difficult financially. She informed the Council that she could not give an update on the audit due to not receiving a response to her phone call made. The Clerk then informed the Council that she had met with Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Mills regarding procedure changes at the Civic Center. She informed the Council that they would like to make the changes of: Repast – a flat \$50.00 (no refund), Churches and Non-profits – a flat \$75.00 (no refunds) and that repasts, churches and non-profits would not have to put a deposit. She then informed the Council that they had discussed only allowing an organization or individual a three day limit, per month, on rental and that anything over three days would have to be requested and approved by the full Council. She also informed the Council that the “No Alcohol Affidavit” would be included with the application for rental to keep in compliance with the new Event Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the procedure changes for the Civic Center. The motion carried unanimously. The Clerk was then asked about the budgeted amount of the Excise Tax and the amount received this year. The Clerk explained that the January amount was put back into last year, however would not be reflected until December of this year. Councilman Middleton then questioned sales tax and the Clerk informed the Council that revenues have decreased slightly from previous years and that SPLOST was the same way. Councilman Middleton stated that tax revenues are predicted to decrease even further next year and the following years due to the new tax exemptions.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

Intergovernmental Agreement with Early County for Garbage Pickup

The Mayor explained that this came about due to the County consolidating their pickup sights and getting out of the commercial garbage business. The Mayor informed the Council that several businesses, in the County, had called the City regarding service. He stated that this agreement was so that the City could offer this service to those businesses or schools in the County and that the agreement would be going to the County if the Council chose to approve. He stated that Gabe was looking into the cost figures and that the City would not go ahead with this if it was not a profitable venture. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Early County for Garbage Pickup. The motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor updated the Council on the Southside Dr. project. He explained that Jeff Jones, the Clerk and himself had spoke with Blankenship and D'arcy Stewart on ways to lower the cost of moving the dirt. Jeff Jones informed the Council that the cost comes into play with the road and backfill material. He then stated that if the City hauls the dirt and can keep up with their work then this should help keep costs down. He stated that it was being looked at for a way to stabilize the base and not have to use as much select backfill. He informed the Council that they were having a meeting with Oxford about using soil cement and what that cost might be. They City Clerk informed the Council that a dump truck purchase was being actively being looked into.

VIII) Public Comments

Several citizens addressed the Council regarding nuisance animals, yards and junk cars needing to be cleaned up and removed. The Council was also questioned as to whether the street sweeper was still in operation because of how the streets were beginning to look.

IX) Executive Session

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

X) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn the July 1, 2014 City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Anthony Howard, Mayor