



July 2, 2013

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Mr. Charlie Sol 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 and Councilman Hutchins were present. Councilman Smith was not present. Also present were the City Attorney Tommy Coleman, City Clerk, Melinda Crook, Utility Director, Charles Jenkins and Fire Chief, Kenneth Jones

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the June 4th, June 18th and June 27th minutes. The motion carried unanimously

III) Citizens And Delegations

Claude Bell – New Peking - Mr. Bell came before the Council to represent his family as owners of the building where the Peking restaurant is located. He stated that Chief Jones had informed him of a smell in the restaurant. He then stated that foul smelling water had been found under the building. He continued to explain that upon pumping out the water and hiring a plumber to locate the problem a hole was found in a large sewer pipe. He stated that the hole was patched and that the area is drying up. He then asked the Council to consider some assistance in the cost of the repair, trying to figure out where the pipe goes and who is connected to the pipe. Chief Jones informed the Council that the problem had been initially discovered in April and was thought to be only the grease trap at the kitchen sink. He then stated that a leak under the floor was discovered. The Chief stated that it looked as if the patch repair was working and that it seemed that several others were tied in to the line. The Mayor then explained that this is on private property and that the City line is open and flowing. The Mayor suggested that the City could run the camera up the line to see where it goes and that we could help with finding the diagnoses.

Scott Shippee – noise complaint - Mr. Shippee came before the Council to speak of an ongoing noise problem from Church St. He cited the City Ordinance 14.10 regarding, prohibited noises. He stated that the noise can be heard ½ mile away. He wanted to voice serious concerns about the issue not being addressed and would like any help or response from anyone regarding this matter. The Council questioned if the music was from the businesses on Church St. or the vehicles. Mr. Shippee stated that he felt from both, however, he believes more from vehicle stereos.

Joe & Sue Freeman - The Freeman's came before the Council to state their objections to the alcohol license for a new business on Georgia Pine. They stated that they do not think the City needs another business such as a night club.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Alcohol license, Pamela Sparks, 71 Georgia Pine Street

Chief Jones informed the Council that the application had been approved by Public Safety. Councilman Mills stated that he had spoken to Mr. Johnson and the building was not ready to open at the present time. There was some discussion between the Council regarding this matter. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to table the license at the present time. The motion carried unanimously

Planning Commission, conditional use for religious services at Station West

Chief Jones informed the Council that the Planning Commission had approved the conditional use of the old phone co. building, at Station West, for religious services. The Chief informed the Council that the applicant was Mr. Loyless Tolbert. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the conditional use of the old phone co. building at Station West for religious services. The motion carried unanimously

V) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading And Adoption Of Elections Ordinance

A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to adopt the Election Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously

VI) City Clerk's Report

The Clerk informed the Council that the City finished the month with \$27,070.76 in the General Fund. The Council was informed that \$200,000 had been transferred from the savings account. She gave the Council their revenue & expense reports. The Clerk informed the Council that the audit report would be presented at the August meeting. The Clerk answered question from the Council regarding reading of the meters and the time periods in which they are read. The Clerk answered questions about some time on the receipt of certain revenues and why some revenues are not showing on the report. The clerk explained that some of those are a timing issue to when the meeting is held. The clerk then answered questions from the Council on some expense line items. There was then a short discussion regarding the percentages on the report which the Clerk stated she would look into.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Councilman Mills discussed with the Council regarding a snack shop business owned by Rodney Foster. Chief Jones stated that everything was OK with the business license as long as all the correct documentation had been submitted and a letter was submitted stating that Mr. Foster would only be providing packaged snack. He stated that if Mr. Foster would be cooking then he would have to follow the Health Department regulations. He then stated that Mr. Foster had purchased a trailer, in the County, which he would like to move into the City to remodel the trailer. Councilman Mills stated that he had inspected another trailer that Mr. Foster had previously renovated which looked great. He then stated that he felt the Council should give him an opportunity to do the same with the trailer in question. Chief Jones stated that he agreed with Councilman Mills on the current condition of the trailer and that he felt Mr. Foster would renovate the trailer sufficiently. He then stated that Mr. Foster would only need a temporary service pole and that the zoning as correct. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the relocation of the trailer for remodel. Let the record show that Councilman Middleton voted "No" and the Mayor voted "No", pending his own inspection of the trailer as it is now and the location to which Mr. Foster wants to move the trailer. He also stated that the issue may be reexamined once he had visited both locations. The motion did not pass.

Councilman Hutchins and Mills updated the Council on the splash pad project. Councilman Mills stated that he had some contact information so as to get some pricing quotes.

The Director of the chamber, Marshall, came before the Council to update what has been going on at the Chamber. He informed the Council that there had been in increase in visitations from across the US. He stated that they had visited a large number of small businesses. He stated that the Chamber had five new members. He stated that the Chamber had been featured a national news paper under Chamber reviews, which goes to thousands of chambers, for the work being done on the Alexander Building. He stated that they had raised \$7,700 from a fundraiser in April. he then stated that the Chamber had assisted the New Believers International Church in securing two free computers for a media lab they are creating at the church. He informed the Council that they have changed the day for Christmas on the Square to the second Saturday instead of the first. He updated the Council on the progress of the Alexander Building renovations.

The mayor reported that the sewage issue, on Willow Glen Dr. had not been corrected as of yet. He then updated the Council on the new lift station.

The Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, updated the Council further on the lift station. He then informed the Council that Oxford was ready to start running. He informed the Council that a head pipe, at the treatment plant, had split and that Blankenship had come in to try to fix the pipe but needed to wait on some part to complete the repair correctly. He stated that they had patched the pipe and at the present time it was functioning properly. He also informed the Council that the City was letting out about 2 million at the plant, due to all the rain however there is more room at the ponds.

VIII) Public Comments

Ms. Alice Hutchins came before the Council to state her and citizens objections to the night club trying to open on GA. Pine. She stated that other things needed to be found for the City's young people to do. She impressed upon the Council to think about the City's children when considering the club and alcohol license for the business on GA. Pine.

Two other citizens spoke in objection to the night club on GA. Pine.

IX) Executive Session

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

Upon exiting Executive Session-A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to offer Mr. Joe Howard the position of the City of Blakely Fire Chief with a starting salary of \$60,000. The motion carried unanimously

X) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to adjourn the July 2nd City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Anthony Howard, Mayor