



AUGUST 5, 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. Councilman Al Hutchins gave the invocation. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the minutes from the July 1st, July 25th and the July 28th City Council meetings. Councilman Smith noted that a change needed to be made from the July 28th minutes of Councilman Hutchins to Councilman Smith. The motion carried unanimously

III) Citizens and Delegations

Fletcher Thompson – zoning - Mr. Fletcher Thompson came before the Council to request their approval to reapply for the rezoning of property on E. South Blvd. The City Attorney explained that Mr. Thompson needed the Council approval due to the fact that a full year had not passed Mr. Thompson's previous attempt at rezoning this property. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve Mr. Thompson's request to apply for rezoning, before a year had expired, on his property on E. South Blvd. The motion carried unanimously

Audra Claybrook -Liquor by the Drink fee - Ms. Claybrook addressed the Council regarding the proposed fee of \$2,000 for the liquor by drink ordinance. She stated that she had done some research on cities close to Blakely's size and that the proposed fee was as high as the City of Moultrie, which is three times larger than Blakely. She requested that the Council reconsider the \$2,000 fee and lower it to \$1,500 before the second reading. She then asked that the Council possibly look at giving a discount for private clubs.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Special 1 day Alcohol License – Brian Eaford

Kenneth Jones, the Building Official, informed the Council that Public Safety had approved the application and provided the background check. He then informed the Council that Mr. Eaford wanted the license for two separate events which were on the 8th and the 22nd. Mr. Jones stated that all the applicable fees had been paid to this point. Councilman Hutchins questioned the Attorney about an alcohol license had been denied at this location for Mr. Johnson previously but will all these events the location was turning into a nightclub. The Attorney stated that it was being looked into and that there could possibly be changes to the Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the 1 day alcohol license for Brian Eaford. The motion carried unanimously

Special 1 day Alcohol License – Donald Freeman

Kenneth Jones informed the Council that all of Mr. Freeman's paperwork was in order and that he also wanted the license for two separate events, which would be on the 9th

and 23rd. The Mayor then questioned the hours of operation for Saturday's. The Attorney read the Ordinance 3.5(b) that states closing on Saturday's is 12:00 midnight and the premises must be vacated within 15 minutes thereafter. Chief Deputy Hardrick was asked if the Ordinance was being upheld regarding Saturday night functions to which he answered "Yes." There was more discussion between the Attorney and Council regarding the hours of operation. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the two 1day alcohol licenses for Mr. Freeman. The motion carried unanimously

Special 1 day Alcohol License – Kawanis Sparks

Kenneth Jones reviewed Ms. Sparks application with the Council stating that all the paperwork was in order. He informed the Council that Ms. Sparks events were for the dates of the 15th and 16th. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve two 1 day alcohol licenses for Ms. Sparks. The motion carried unanimously

Beer License – The Blue Diamond – 5 Georgia Pine

Kenneth Jones reviewed the Blue Diamond application with the Council. He informed the Council that the applicant does not reside within the City limits but had named a responsible party. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the beer license for The Blue Diamond. The motion carried unanimously

V) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading and Adoption of Consumption by the Drink Ordinance

The Mayor asked the Council about any research into other cities they may have done during the last month or an ideas that they may have come up with regarding the fee for the Liquor by Drink Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to lower the fee to \$1,500. Councilman Hutchins questioned why the Council doesn't stick to some of their original decisions. He stated that this would be the time for the Council to consider Ms. Claybrook's request to drop the fee to \$1,500. The Mayor then briefly went back over Ms. Claybrook's arguments for dropping the fee from \$2,000 to \$1,500. The Mayor asked Ms. Claybrook to readdress the Council regarding her arguments for the decrease. She again asked the Council to seriously consider dropping the fee. She also questioned the Council whether the hours of operation pertained to the Country Club as well. At this point Councilman Mills and Councilman Hutchins voted "No." The Mayor broke the tie with a vote of "No." A motion was then made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the fee of \$2,000 for the Liquor by Drink Ordinance. Let the record show that the motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Smith and Councilman Hutchins voting "Yes" and Councilman Mills voting "No."

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk gave the Council financial reports. She informed the Council that the City finished the month of July with \$80,753.21 in the bank which was a decrease from June. She then updated the Council of the balances in the savings accounts due to the bond payments being made. She stated that the overall cash-on-hand balance is \$544,257.49. She updated the Council regarding the audit. She informed the Council that she had been contacting the audit firm every week and that per the last conversation the audit was in review and was hoping to receive a draft by the end of the week or beginning of the next week. The mayor then asked the Clerk to update the Council on the new garbage truck and dumpsters. She informed the Council that the financing on the new truck was complete and that the new dumpsters for the County business were in but needed to be tweaked a little to work with the new truck. She stated that the new truck was not in operation as of yet. She also informed the Council that the compactor sight had been working well.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

Councilman Mills stated that he would like the City of put a pay matrix into place for the City employees, which would be pay ranges for per job classification. He also questioned

how many of the City employees have CDL licenses. The Mayor requested the Clerk get the information for Councilman Mills.

Councilman Mills stated that loud music at the Civic Center needed to be addressed due to the fact that it was being heard in homes, on occasion, ½ mile away from the Center.

VIII) Public Comments

Ms. Margaret Wimberly question higher utility costs

Chief Deputy Hardrick questioned the Council regarding whose responsibility it would be to notify applicants and current alcohol license holders of the hours of operations for Saturday's. The Mayor stated that the City would draft a letter to all alcohol license holders about the hours the Public Safety could follow up to which Chief Deputy Hardrick stated they would do what was needed.

IX) Executive Session

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

The Mayor call the regular session back to order.

Captain Martin, CHAMPS Instructor, briefly explained the program to the Council. She stated that this was her 2nd year teaching the program. She then explained the list of items she had submitted which would be needed for the class and that this list would cover the expenses for the full year. She also stated that she teaches the program twice a year due to the number of students. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the list of supplies needed for the CHAMPS program. The motion carried unanimously

X) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the August 5th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Anthony Howard, Mayor