



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

OCTOBER 1, 2013

6:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Tony Thompson gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led the Council and Public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Let the record show that Mayor Howard, Councilman Smith, Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Mills were all present. 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 September 3rd and September 5th minutes. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Smith and Mayor Howard voting Yes.

III) Citizens And Delegations

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

V) City Attorney's Report

Second reading and adoption of an ordinance repealing brown bagging

There was discussion with the City Attorney about when this Ordinance would take effect. The City Attorney stated that once adopted no new brown bag licenses would be issued and the businesses holding current licenses would not be able to renew them come January 1st, 2014. There was then some discussion on how this would affect private clubs. The City Attorney was asked to look into the matter. The Mayor and Council decided to readdress this Ordinance once the City Attorney looked into the private club issue.

ECG Resolution - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the ECG Resolution to make Mayor Howard the voting Authorized Official and Melinda Crook the voting alternate taking the places of Charles Jenkins and Ritchie Wilbourn. The motion carried unanimously

Rescind resolution / ordinance transferring responsibilities of fire marshal to city from last month

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Resolution rescinding the transferring of responsibilities of Fire Marshal to the City. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adopt the Ordinance to repeal the Ordinance adopting the minimum fire safety codes. Councilman Mills questioned the businesses this would affect. It was stated that it would affect businesses such as the Schools, Jail, and possibly those over a 300 capacity. The motion carried unanimously

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented financial reports to the Mayor and Council. She did explain that she had presented them with a corrected copy due to some August expenses being posted into September. She then informed the Council that the City had finished the month with \$55,994.83 in the bank and that \$50,000 had been transferred back into the Combined Utility Sinking Fund and the Combined Savings account at \$25,000 each. She informed the Council that the insurance premium refund would be coming in the month of October and that money is usually put back into these accounts as well. She informed the Council that additional monies may be able to be transferred because the October billing was up due to the weather. The Clerk then informed the Council that the PCA was left at .009 and upon looking at the spreadsheet for the PCA, if left at .009 for the rest of the year the loss would only be around \$40,000 but if changed to .007 for the balance of the year the loss would be around \$102,000 so upon discussion with the Mayor the suggestion would be leaving the PCA at .009. The City Clerk no nothing further to report.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Audit RFP's - A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve Mauldin & Jenkins' proposal for a term of three years in the amount of \$73,200 to perform the City's yearly audit. The motion carried unanimously

Quotes for hand helds - The City Clerk informed the Council that the City has three handhelds presently however one of those was not longer in working order. She then informed the Council that upon reading in September there had been a fatal error on another handheld but that Trudie Evans had been able to correct the problem. She informed the Council that parts were no longer available to service the handhelds that the City presently has and therefore quotes had been gotten on new handhelds, which had been placed in the SPLOST

budget for the current year. The Clerk informed the Council that two quotes had been received. She stated that the two quotes included promotional packages however if was felt that the City needed to only purchase the handhelds without the promotional packages. The Clerk informed the Council that if only looking at the handhelds only one of the quotes included that option and the cost would be \$12,575. The Clerk stated that this would include two handhelds and the equipment needed to operate them, training and the upgrade kit for the software. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the purchase of the handhelds from United Utilities in the amount of \$12,575 to be paid from SPLOST funds. The motion carried unanimously

D'arcy Stewart came before the Council to explain some issues with a sewer line at the City cemetery, which involved spills and blockages. He informed the Council that the proposed plan was to replace the line, which zig zags now, with a straight sewer line to run almost parallel with the creek. He then stated that the line size would be increased from an 8" line to a 12" line. He informed the Council that the new line would tie in at the back of the cemetery where it backs up to the school. He informed the Council that the new pipe would be PVC except where it crossed the drainage ditch and that portion would be ductile iron. He stated that also with this correction it could possibly open up more room in the cemetery. The Mayor explained that this came about because the City was getting calls regarding backups at Baptist Branch. He also stated that it is believed that these lines had been lined previously. The Mayor question if this needed to go out for bid and was informed, by the City Attorney, because of the fact that Blankenship is already working for us, in the area, we could use them for this repair. He then informed the Mayor and Council that we can chose a contractor if the cost is \$100,000 because he is already working for us in the area. The Council was informed that the cost of this project was \$66,300.00.

D'arcy then explained to the Council the situation at the treatment plant and how these problems had been found. He explained that the corrosion in the pipes was found to be from the outside in and that a company, DIPRA, had been come in to test soil samples around the area. He informed the Council that he had never seen a problem such as this in his time in this business. He informed the Council that it was found that the problem only existed in a small area and instead of having to replace a large amount of the pipe only about 120 ft of the 8" pipe would have to be replaced. He informed the Council that the replacement pipe would be PVC with ductile iron fittings and all would be wrapped in a Polywrap. He explained that any existing pipes would be excavated and wrapped so that they will be protected in the future. He then explained that the pipes under the clarifier would have to be slip lined, by putting PVC inside the existing ductile iron pipe. He explained that this would possibly slow the process from the clarifier down slightly. There was then discussion between the Council and D'arcy. D'arcy then informed the Council that the quote for these repairs would be \$63,610.00, but that could change if the length of pipe needing to be replaced changes. The Mayor informed the Council that these repairs would be paid out of SPLOST. He then gave a rundown of the balance in that account and what items still needed to be taken care of and how some of these items could be worked with to continue funding for these repairs and others on Colonial Dr. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the quote from Blankenship for repairs at the water treatment plant and the City Cemetery and a portion of Colonial Dr in the amount of \$28,350.00. The motion carried unanimously

Councilman Hutchins asked the City Clerk about the change in cutting off all services at a location when disconnected for non-payment. The Clerk informed the Council that upon discussion between herself, the meter reader and other Dept. Heads it was felt that customers could make do without electric for a period of time but that they could not due without water. The Clerk informed the Council that the Sheriff had also made the statement to the same effect. Councilman Hutchins questioned notification to the customers and the Clerk informed him that there had not been notification. The Clerk asked the local newspaper representative, who was present at the meeting, to add something in the paper.

Councilman Hutchins informed the Council that Marshal Hook, at the Chamber, could not service as the City and County's second representative with the RDC. He informed the Council that the representative must live within the County and/or City limits and Marshal has yet to move into this area. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve nominating Freddy Spade as the County/City second representative. The motion carried unanimously

VIII) Public Comments

A member of the public questioned limb pick up. There was discussion between the public and the Council regarding some of the issues that the City was having regarding equipment breakdowns and other items.

IX) Adjournment

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

Anthony Howard, Mayor