



October 7, 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 Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton were present. Councilman Torre' Mills and Councilman Andy Smith were not present. Tony Thompson gave the invocation. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

**II) Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the September 2nd and September 18th minutes. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Middleton and Mayor Howard voting yes.

**III) Citizens and Delegations**

**Rodney Thornton – Time Extension for Club Old School 21** - Was not present

**Tommy Wright – Meter Base & Street Close** - Mr. Wright came to speak regarding meter bases stating that at one time they were given but now there is a fee. The Mayor stated that he would check into this item. Mr. Wright then spoke to the Council regarding the early closing on Saturday nights. He spoke of people going into different areas because of the clubs having to close at 11:00p.m. on Saturday nights. He stated that the previous Sheriff stated he knew of the ordinance but didn't enforce it to keep the people contained to Church St. He then asked the Council if they would consider changing the ordinance. Councilman Hutchins then stated that he remembered a time when Church St. closed at 12:00. He also stated that there is nothing in writing, in the City of Blakely, that allows alcohol to be sold on Sunday's which starts at 12:00a.m. Councilman Hutchins then discussed age differences and how younger individuals are in today's age. Councilman Hutchins then reminded Mr. Wright that Damascus can sell alcohol on Sunday's but that has not been passed in Blakely. Mr. Wright asked the Council to give people a chance. A motion was then made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to table this issue. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Middleton and Mayor Howard voting yes.

**IV) Administrative Committee Reports**

**Liquor License for Old Mexico** - Kenneth Jones spoke to Council regarding this item. He stated that the application had been approved by Public Safety. He then stated that a designee had been listed in the application. He informed the Council that the fee for the annual license would be adjusted due to the lateness in the year and that they would still need to apply to the state. Councilman Hutchins questioned their hours of operation and how it applies to the Saturday closing. The City Attorney reminded the Council that they sell over 50% food and therefore do not need to close by 12:00a.m. but cannot sell alcohol after that time. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the liquor license for Old Mexico. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting yes.

**Alcohol Application for Coco Lounge on Georgia Pine** - Councilman Hutchins stated that this item had been tables the previous month due to the Council feeling that a full Council should be present therefore he felt this item should be tabled again. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to table the alcohol application for CoCo Lounge. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Middleton and Mayor Howard voting yes.

**V) City Attorney's Report**

**Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Adopting the Minimum Standard Building Codes**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Ordinance adopting the Minimum Standard Building Codes. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting yes.

**Second Reading and Adoption of Hotel Motel Tax Ordinance** - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the adoption of the Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting yes.

**First Reading of Ordinance Restricting Possession of Weapons at Meetings** - The City Attorney explained that this Ordinance was something that he presented due to the recent changes in the weapons law. He stated that the new law allows for individuals with a license to carry a weapon would be allowed to come into a public building with a weapon. He then stated that in order to stop this, the City would have to hire a guard to check individual who entered City Hall because you cannot just post a sign. He stated that this ordinance would allow a deputy to scan 30 minutes before the meeting and 15 minutes after the meeting.

**Resolution Restricting the Carrying of Firearms by Employees** - The City Attorney stated that this resolution allows for an amendment to the personnel policy to restrict City employees, who have a firearm license, from carrying them on the job. He then stated that this could be approved immediately if the Council chose to do so. The Council did not take action at this time.

**VI) City Clerk's Report**

The City Clerk presented the financial report. She informed the Council that the City finished the month with \$184,214.88 in the bank. She also informed the Council the Council that this was an increase from the previous month in the amount of \$33,034.75. She then informed the Council that \$30,000.00 was moved into each of the Combined Utility and Combined Savings funds. She informed the Council that she had reformatted the Revenue & Expense reports to make them more readable as the year continues. She stated that she had added a mid-year column, which is the balance per account from January thru June and that the remainder of the year will stay in individual month columns. She also informed the Council that she had added a projected yearend balance due to amendments and adjustments that she was presenting. The Clerk informed the Council that the MD&A report was close to being finished. The Clerk then went over the amendments she was asking the Council to consider. The amendments consisted of \$50,000 to motor vehicle taxes, \$80,000 to excise tax, \$100,000 to Dept. of Public Safety (due to the refund) and \$100,000 in gas receipts due to oxford consumption which would be an increase in revenues of \$330,000. She then informed the Council that she would like them to consider expenditure amendment offsets of \$40,000 insurance liability, \$140,000 to Dept. of Public Safety, mainly due to the purchase of Police cars, \$15,000 to repairs maintenance & Equipment in water pollution, \$25,000 to infrastructure in water pollution, \$50,000 in the MGAG gas expenditure, \$7,000 to sanitation infrastructure and \$15,000 in group insurance in sanitation. She informed the Council that this left \$38,000 additional in revenue to which the Mayor stated that she may need to look, next month, at a decrease in LOST revenue to offset the \$38,000. The Clerk then explained that the adjustments were just interdepartmental and these were based on the projected yearend balances. Councilman Hutchins questioned the additional dumpsters that were purchased for some County pickups to which the Mayor stated was done after the agreement that the Council had passed with the County for garbage pickup. A motion was then made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the budget amendments and adjustments. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting yes.

**VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council**

**Flu shots for employees** - The Clerk informed the Council that this has been done for the City employees ever since she has been employed. She stated that the County Health Dept. comes to City Hall to give the shots and that it is place to help prevent flu throughout the City employees. Councilman Hutchins questioned whether a pneumonia shot was given as well. The Clerk stated, as well as Councilman Middleton that they were not aware of that being offered. The Clerk did state that some departments had been given the hepatitis vaccines. The Council agreed to allow the flu shots.

The Mayor updated the Council on the Southside project. He stated that the project was about ½ the way complete. He suggested that the Council go by the site and take a look at how deep the lines are. He informed the Council that the dirt being hauled by the City employees has been going well and that some of the material invoices have started to be paid so things are going well. He then informed the Council that the CDBG projected had actually been completed but that there had been a change order addition for Barton St. and that would be getting started soon. He also informed the Council that we have been replacing water service lines in the areas of the CDBG grant before the road got paved back over. He then informed the Council of a water leak on Arlington St. that crosses

the Birdsong storm drain and that the City has been unable to locate it as of yet. He informed the Council that we are going to have camera work done on the sewer line in this area. The Clerk then informed the Council that the animal shelter was almost complete and that the water service lines are going to be replaced on Southside before the road gets paved.

**VIII)Public Comments**

Ms. Earline Holmes spoke to the Council regarding the amount of her utility bill. She stated that she lives at 163 Howell St. The Mayor asked if she had requested an energy audit as of yet and she stated she had not. The Mayor stated that she should give her number to Mr. Jones so that he could get in touch with her to schedule an audit.

**IX) Executive Session**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel issues. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Middleton and Mayor Howard voting yes.

**X) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the October 7th City Council Meeting. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Mayor Howard voting yes.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor