



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

November 4, 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, Councilman Smith and Councilman Mills were all present. Ms. Wells 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

Minutes October 7, 2014 - A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes from the October 7th City Council Meeting. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voting "YEH"

III) Citizens And Delegations

Jerome Haynes – Mobile Home - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, informed the Council that he felt this was a trailer he had looked at on Lucille Rd. He then stated that it had been burned and that the request was to move the trailer into City limits then remodel. He informed the Council that they wanted to move the trailer on Westward and that it wasn't zone for manufactured homes. He then presented photos of the trailer in question to the Council. The Mayor asked Mr. Jones if he would let the citizen know that the trailer would need to be brought up to code and re-inspected before it could be moved into City limits. Councilman Hutchins question Mr. Jones if Three Notch's procedures were the same as the City. Mr. Jones informed the Council that Philip Law, the Building Official for the County, inspects and places a sticker on the property to let Three Notch know if the property is OK'd for services.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Charlie Wade – Asphalt Recycler Bids - The Mayor stated that he had looked at about 12 quotes on the asphalt recycler. He then went over what the City had spent on cold patch in 2013. The Mayor explained how this machine generally works and that he felt the City could put this machine to good use. He then stated that he felt the City should move forward with this purchase. Charlie Wade, the Department Head for the Street Department, then came before the Council and explained why he felt that the City could use the asphalt recycler and that if purchased all departments that repair holes in the streets would be trained on how to properly do so. He also stated that with this machine he would then be able to create the asphalt speed bumps that the Council had previously discussed. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the quote from Falcon Asphalt Repair Equipment in the amount of \$34,001 which included additional equipment that was requested to be quoted. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voting "YEH"

Alcohol Application for Coco Lounge on Georgia Pine - The Mayor stated that he had spoken to Mr. Johnson several times regarding this issue. He then stated that in their last conversation Mr. Johnson does not want to get an alcohol license for this location and wants to leave it as an event center. He stated that Mr. Johnson asked the Council to consider letting City Hall issue the alcohol licenses quicker, reduce the application fees and return the Saturday night hours to 2:00am. The Mayor stated that he would be OK with the license being approved at City Hall but not with anything else. Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that if Coco Lounge went to a nightclub there would need to be a re-inspection and that Mr. Johnson has complied with all items except the suppression system. Councilman Mills questioned the difference between an event center and nightclub. Mr. Jones explained that an event center is like the Civic Center for multi-purpose use whereas a nightclub is mainly for one purpose as a drinking establishment. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the streamlining of the alcohol licenses and that approval would go through the City Clerk with the procedures being the same as they are now except having to go before the Council for approval of the alcohol license. The motion carried unanimously

Councilman Hutchins questioned the Georgia Department of Revenue procedures regarding these alcohol licenses. The City Attorney stated that procedure for the alcohol licenses are the same whether yearly or 1 day.

Conditional Use Cedar Springs Hwy - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, informed the Council that this initially started for a church; however, he informed the Council that the church had changed their plans at the Planning Commission meeting. He informed the Council that the church would like to build an outreach center across the street from the church. He then informed the Council that the Planning Commission had approved this conditional use. Ms. Wells then informed the Council that this would be a charity youth center with summer programs. Mr. Charlie Sol spoke about the Planning Commission decision and reminded the Council that this same action had been taken for the New Believers Church at the old Busy Bee building. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the conditional use on Cedar Springs Hwy. The motion carried with Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voting "YEH"

Pond - Hughie Klias - 1306 S Main Street - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that this property is in an R1 zone and that there is nothing in the Ordinances which states that he couldn't put in a pond or that he could. He then stated that he had checked with DOT and EPD and neither had any objections as long as no water is in the Hwy and that the well will be under 70 gallons per minute. The City Attorney stated that the R1 zones do not allow for anything without a structure and he is not sure that it complies. He then stated that this would go against the Animal Control Ordinance regarding fowls, seeing as Mr. Klias wants to place swans in the pond. Councilman Middleton reminded the Council of the possibly of the swans multiplying. The City Attorney then stated if they wished to change the Ordinances they should look into the matter further. The mayor then asked if the building official could notify Mr. Klias that at the present time it is not in compliance with zoning but before final ruling is determined there would be more research to which the City Attorney stated that he could. There was then discussion on how to deny if they should chose to do so. The City Attorney suggested that the matter be tabled for further research and further discussion about zoning issues. No action was taken at this time pending further research

Sharon George - 1 Day Event License - The Council was informed that all application had been approved. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the 1 day event alcohol license for the 27th and 28th of November. The motion carried unanimously

Brian Eaford - 1 Day Event License - The Council was informed that all application had been approved. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the 1 day event alcohol license for the 7th of November. The motion carried unanimously

The Council was informed that Public Safety was OK with reusing background checks as long as they were within 60 days.

V) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Restricting Possession of Weapons at Meetings - A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Ordinance Restricting Possession of Weapons at Meetings with the change in the exhibit to Early County Department of Public Safety and represent Public Safety. The motion carried unanimously

CDBG Resolutions - Ms. Wanda Hudson came before the Council to ask the Council to approve the Resolutions for the 2015 CDBG Grant with a City match up to \$50,000. She stated that they would be looking into more sewer work in the same areas that are presently being worked and that these projects had to be in low to moderate income areas. Councilman Mills questioned the certification of low income. Ms. Hudson explained that this has to be done for each grant. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the CDBG Resolutions. The motion carried unanimously

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with the financial reports. She informed the Council that the City finished the month with \$179,584.83 in the bank. She then informed the Council that this was a slight decrease from September in the amount of \$4,630.05. The Clerk then informed the Council that \$400,000 had been moved into the Combined Savings accounts of which \$273,341.45 was from the Insurance Premium Refund and \$126,658.55 from the General Operating Account. She then updated the Council on the accounts making up the City's cash on hand for a full total of \$1,051,630.51 cash on hand. The City Clerk informed the Council of the signup sheet for the budget reviews and she presented the Council with a working copy of the budget to this point. There was discussion between the Council and the Clerk regarding some of the numbers in the working copy of the budget to this point. The Clerk presented the Council with a final copy of the audit report, which had been received that day. The Mayor asked the Council to formally accept the audit so that it could be submitted. Councilman Mills stated that he had a problem with the receivable audit finding and that it sounded serious. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to formally accept the audit for submittal. The motion carried with Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voting "YEH", Councilman Mills and Councilman Hutchins voting "NAY" and the Mayor voting "YEH."

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Old School 21- 1164 N Church - Citations for Violation of Alcohol Ordinance

The Council reviewed the report from Public Safety regarding a citation issued to Old School 21 for not closing at the correct time. The Attorney suggested that the Council notice Mr. Thornton that the Council will have a hearing to make a decision on how to handle this issue of a citation issued for violation of the Alcohol Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to have a hearing to make the decision on how to handle the citation for violation of the Alcohol Ordinance to Old School 21. The motion carried unanimously

Fee for Conditional Use Applications - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, asked the Council to consider a fee for conditional use applications to help offset the costs such as advertising for the public hearing. Councilman Mills questioned the cost of the application at the present time and Mr. Jones stated that there wasn't one. The Mayor questioned if the Council would consider an applicant picking up the cost of the advertising. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve that an applicant pick up the outside cost to comply with the Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously

VIII) Public Comments

Mr. Thornton addressed the Council regarding his citation. The Mayor informed him that the Council would hear his side when the hearing took place.

IX) Executive Session

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

When back in regular session the Clerk was questioned regarding a meeting that had taken place between the Mayor, Councilman Smith, the city clerk and the assistant clerk. The Clerk informed the Council that this meeting was about the redesign of the City website. The Clerk informed the Council that a local business, Backlight, had been chosen and that the cost was \$11,900. She informed the Council that only \$4,000 had been placed in the 2014 budget and that the company had agreed to take that as partial payment with the balance being incorporated into the 2015 budget. Councilman Mills then questioned the cost, due to the higher amount. The Clerk and Mayor informed Councilman Mills that the several places had been contacted and that there were others that were close to the same amount.

X) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the November 7th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Anthony Howard, Mayor