



## Blakely City Council Minutes

January 5, 2021, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

- I. **Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance**

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush called the meeting to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember Al Hutchins, Councilmember Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Brad Clenney were all present. Also present was City Attorney Tommy Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence for past Councilmember Frank Thornton and those affected by COVID-19. Commissioner Charlie Sol gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Proclamation June Merritt**

The Mayor read a proclamation for Mrs. June Merritt for her 8 years of service as Chairperson of the County Commission. Councilmember Ray Jarrett read and presented Mrs. June Merritt with a plaque from the Mayor and City Council. Mrs. June Merritt gave a brief comment.
- III. **Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the minutes from December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to amend the agenda adding item 11. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present
- IV. **Citizens And Delegations**
- V. **Administrative Committee**

**Will Caudill – Updates**  
Chief Caudill gave his monthly report for December. The Mayor asked to get information of the accident on HWY 27 and to get numbers together to give to DOT to try to get a traffic light at the bad intersection.

**Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates**  
Lequisha Mincey gave E911 monthly report for December per departments and yearly total of calls.

**Mark Hawkins – Alcohol License for Food Lion**  
Building Official, Mark Hawkins came before the Council regarding the alcohol license for Food Line. He stated that this was due to Food Lion taking over Harvey's grocery store. He then



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informed the Council that Mr. Walter Summerset will be on the license due to needing someone local. Councilmember Jarrett asked Mark Hawkins if he was good with granting this license. Mark stated that he was. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the alcohol license for Food Lion. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

### VI. City Attorney's Report

Second Reading & Adoption of Ordinance Setting Compensation for Mayor and Council  
The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman stated that there could not be a second reading of the Ordinance setting Compensation for Mayor and Council due to ads with the pay rate need to be run three times before a second reading. He also stated that because of the law which states that this can only be done in election years so a yearly cost of living increase could not be placed in the Ordinance and the Council would need to come up with a set amount. He stated that it needs to be done before qualifying.

First Reading of Ordinance Changing Conditions for On Premise Consumption  
The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman explained that this Ordinance included the proof of 50% food sales and that an initial license would be given until their first renewal to provide proof of 50% food sales. He then stated that this constituted the first reading

First Reading of Ordinance Amending Chapter 3  
The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, explained the amendments to the verbiage in the Alcohol License Ordinance regarding alcoholic license cost, allotting for retail package stores and wholesale distributors to pay \$2,500 for alcohol license. He then stated that this constituted the first reading of the Ordinance

Renew Chamber of Commerce Agreement  
A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Chamber of Commerce Agreement with no changes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Renew Court Square Development  
A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Court Square Development Agreement with no changes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

First Reading of Election Ordinance  
The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that this is an election year for District 1 Post 1 and District 2 Post 1. He stated that this Ordinance also states the qualifying fee is set at \$216.00



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and that an ad needs regarding this needs to run before February 1<sup>st</sup>. He then asked the Mayor and Council to approve dispensing with the second reading. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the Ordinance and dispense with the second reading. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

### VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with November financial reports. She then presented a PowerPoint presentation for the public. The City Clerk informed the Mayor and Council of the interest rates for financing through the GMA Master Lease on the camera truck/unit for the Water Treatment Dept. She stated that the rate with BB&T for 5 years is 2.27% and the rate with Magnolia for 5 years is 2.88%. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve financing with BB&T with an interest rate of 2.27%. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

### VIII. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

#### Appoint Mayor Pro Tem

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the nomination of Councilmember Margaret Davis as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

#### MEAG Off System Sales

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the MEAG off System Sales being applied to the MEAG monthly billing, as in the past. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

#### City Cemetery

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve an increase in the cost of plot in the City Cemetery from \$250 to \$500 effective 30 days from the meeting with an ad placed in the paper to inform the public. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

#### Vacant Recreation Board Position

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to appoint Victor Robinson to the Recreation Board to take the vacancy left by the death of Tony Thompson. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the appointment of the appointment of Ray Enfinger as the joint appointment with the County. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present



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Councilmember Hutchins questioned the COL increase for the City employees. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the 3% COL increase for City employees across the board (full and part time) effective on the next payroll. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor spoke on the buzzard issue inside the City. He stated that he had research this and spoken with the City Attorney regarding recommendations. He stated that there are modules, for about \$200 each, that could be hung on City property or a boom sounding device. He stated that a company would come and show how to strategically locate on City property. He stated that there could be issue if relocated from City property they could go to private property and that in that instance there was nothing the City could do on private property. The Mayor asked the Council for their permission for the demonstration and to investigate a grant to address the issue to remove some buzzards but the grant is quite lengthy. He stated that something needs to be looked into to help elevate the problem for both the City and the Citizens. The Council agreed to move forward. Councilmember Jarrett suggested trying both the modules and boom device

Councilmember Hutchins asked about crowd control regarding COVID 19. The City Attorney stated that the Governor's order is still in effect on gatherings of no more than 50 people and that the City cannot go over and above the Governor's order. He stated that the Police Dept can enforce the Governors order.

The Mayor spoke to the Council regarding the opening of the Civic Center. He asked the Council to consider reclosing the Center due to the increase in COVID cases until there was a more structured policy in place. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to reclose the Civic Center. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor spoke to the Council about the COVID vaccine being given out to Public Safety/First Responders and members of the nursing home. He asked the Council for their support in promotion of the vaccine.

The Mayor read a Proclamation for the Blakely Clean & Beautiful Committee. The Mayor asked the Council for their physical assistance as well as the City's financial assistance on the Blakely Clean Up Day in honor of Martin Luther King set for January 30th. He asked the Council to think about the financial assistance the City would like to provide.

### IX. Public Comments



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Anthony Lingo spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding use of the Civic Center from doing things for kids in the community. He informed the Mayor and Council of things he has done in the past and asked that he be allowed to continue using the Civic Center for things to do with kids in the community when the Center reopens.

Tracy Robinson came before the Mayor and Council questioning the speed limit on Freeman Rd. He stated that since his last appearance regarding this nothing has been done. He then stated that he didn't see anything in the Ordinances about Solar Power and he was having panels installed so he hoped he didn't have any issues.

Ms. Celia Bostwick thanked the Mayor and Council for their Proclamation and support regarding the Blakely Clean & Beautiful Committee and clean up day on January 30<sup>th</sup>. She spoke of a variety of community involvement. She is hoping to make this an annual event. She spoke on educating the public on litter as well. She also thanked the Mayor and Council for their continued support of the Gateway project. She stated that the County was willing to donate use of trucks and that she was also working on other outside donations.

### X. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to enter into Executive Session on Personnel and Litigation matters. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Upon returning to regular session no actions were taken

The Mayor informed the Council of a joint meeting set up with the County on Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the joint meeting with the County at the County on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

### XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the January 5<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor