



## Blakely City Council Minutes

February 2, 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 Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Brad Clenney were all present. Councilmember Al Hutchins was present via Teleconference. Also present was the City Attorney Gary Lamar and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Travis Price, Coach Whitehurst and victims of COVID. The Mayor lit two candles, one for those who have passed away due to COVID/death in general and one for the survivors. Mike Newberry gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance

- II. GICH Award Presentation  
Denise Harris gave a brief explanation of the GICH (Georgia Initiative for Community Housing) initiative and what it took to be awarded. A picture was taken of the award with those that worked on the application along with the Mayor and Council.

The Mayor then made a presentation to Mr. Ladarius Caesar for his achievements as MVP of the year in football at Early County High School. The Mayor gave his stats/history of his time on the football team. He presented Mr. Caesar with an award from the City of Blakely. The Mayor then stated that MLH Transport Service is also giving a \$500 scholarship for Mr. Caesars continuing education.

The Mayor stated that Chief Will Caudill was awarded Employee of the Month by the Mayor and Council. He stated some of the reasons Chief Caudill was chosen as Employee of the Month.

- III. Approve Minutes  
A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present
- IV. Citizens And Delegations
- V. Administrative Committee  
Will Caudill – Updates  
Chief Caudill gave his monthly report. Chief Caudill also gave information on the traffic accidents on HWY 27 at the bad intersection. These were given by car vs. car, car vs. signs but not car vs. deer. He stated that there were approximately 12 that reports had been done on.



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Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

Lequisha Mincey gave the E911 monthly report. She stated that there was 9 mutual aide assist calls.

Mark Hawkins – Alcohol License for US Food Mart

The Building Official, Mark Hawkins, came before the Council regarding the alcohol license for the US Food Mart (the old store on Magnolia.) He stated that the background check is clear. He stated that the store is being remodeled and possibly getting the parking lot fixed as well. He stated they want a beer and wine license. The Mayor questioned if the building was up to code. Mr. Hawkins stated that as far as electrical and everything else it was good but that they were doing repainting to refresh and possibly new pumps. Councilmember Jarrett asked Mr. Hawkins if he was good with the application to which he responded that he was. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the alcohol license for US Food Mart.

VI. City Attorney's Report

Second Reading & Adoption of Ordinance Amending Chapter 3

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Ordinance Amending Chapter 3. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with preliminary December financial reports and informed the Mayor and Council that they preliminary due to this being yearend. She then presented a power point presentation of the financials for the public.

VIII. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Solid Waste Agreement with County

The Mayor stated that the agreement is the original agreement entered into and he asked the Council to review the agreement to see if they are good with how the arrangements are or if they feel there needs to be any changes. He informed the Council that the cost to Waste Management was increasing this year by 1.5% and then again next year by 1.5%.

Recycle Trailers

The Mayor informed the Council that the recycle company had gone out of business and what was being placed in the recycle trailers was presently just being taken to the Landfill. He informed the Council that there are three trailers provided by the City, County and GA Pacific, two that are being emptied by the City, one being at the Middle School, one being in the Brickyard parking lot and the one the City doesn't empty is in Damascus at SGA. He asked the

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Council if they would approve the trailers being taken up until such time as a recycle program is found that will work. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to remove the trailers until a better partnership/program is found. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Clenney reported on the Gateway project. He stated that there was a meeting at which the County had attended and stated that they would allow 3 trucks and 3 drivers at 40 hrs. per week for 3 weeks to move dirt for the project to work along with the City trucks and drivers. He stated that they are meeting once a week.

The Mayor asked the community to continue to work together to follow guidelines regarding COVID. The Mayor spoke of new strands that are being report. He asked that everyone work to promote safety.

The Mayor asked the Council to review the College St property and the house on Murdock on how the Council would like to proceed. He also spoke on the sound devices for the buzzard control. He stated that there will be notification where the devices will be used. He asked the Council to observe regarding employee of the month to continue to acknowledge the employees for what they do.

### IX. Public Comments

Charlie Sol asked for agenda copies due to not being able to see the projector screen or make the projector screen darker.

Mike Newberry informed the Mayor and Council that Peanut Proud is actually moving forward. He stated that somethings are changing for safety reasons. He stated that the kid zone will be going away. He thanked the City for their support and asked for their continued support.

Tracy Robinson spoke on approving an alcohol license without being told if there was a business license also. He spoke on the Gateway project and an open record request he submitted for the plans. He questioned how the City could continue to move forward without an updated set of plans. He spoke on the speed limit sign not being put up on Freeman as of yet. He also questioned why the speed limit is still 45 MPH and not dropped to the same as other streets in the City limits.

Celia Bostwick thanked the Mayor and Council for their support for the Clean & Beautiful event. She requested signs regarding fines for littering.



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The Mayor spoke on establishing task forces that work for those that are unrepresented, to build relationships and address policy matters for the City. The possibility that the public make policy and present to the Mayor and Council. He stated that the goals would be to take on resources, policy and regulations, housing cost (homeowner, rents, and homelessness.) He stated that he would be starting a virtual town hall and wants to hear the concerns of the citizens. He wanted to encourage the other Council members to attend if they so choose.

### **X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

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Travis Wimbush, Mayor