



Blakely City Council Minutes

April 6, 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 the City Attorney Gary Lamar and the City Clerk Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence for those affected by COVID 19 and the recent acts of violence. Charlie Sol gave the invocation. Bri'Yonna Sealy led the Mayor, Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Special Presentations
 - a. Mr. & Mrs. Treadwell
The Mayor spoke of the ways that Ricky and Pam Treadwell of assisted the City and the citizens of Blakely such as providing food during Hurricane Michael and a large donation to assist citizens with utility bills at the start of the COVID pandemic. The Mayor then read/presented a proclamation for the Treadwell's along with a plaque from the City of Blakely in recognition of the assistance they have provided.
 - b. Bri'Yonna Sealy
Ms. Mia Pittman George came before the Mayor, Council and citizens to speak of the accomplishments of Ms. Bri'Yonna Sealy. She informed the public that Bri'Yonna was a published author, written a song and has recently published a coloring book off her book and has done this all by the age of 7. She stated that Bri'Yonna wanted to help her community so she donates a portion of her proceeds and her time to the local food pantry. The Mayor then read a proclamation honoring Bri'Yonna and proclaimed Tuesday April 6, 2021 Bri'Yonna Sealy day.

Animal Control Officer Sherry Hughes was names employee of the month. The Mayor spoke of the job that Sherry does for the City and that he had recently gone to the Animal Shelter to see first hand the workings of the shelter.
- III. Approve Minutes
A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the Work Session and Regular meeting minutes from March 2, 2021. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present
- IV. Citizens And Delegations
- V. Administrative Committee



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Police Chief Will Caudill gave the Police Department monthly report

Matt Hromalik gave the E911 monthly report

VI. City Attorney's Report

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the Resolution to use the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission as administrators of the CDBG grant. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the Resolution providing for the City's local match. The Mayor informed the Council that the camera truck could be used towards the match as well. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Resolution / Financing on the GMA Master Lease for the Camera Truck

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the GMA Master Lease Resolution and go with the yearly financing option. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with financial reports. She gave a powerpoint presentation on the City financials. The City Clerk presented the Council with budget adjustments/amendments on Special Funds. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Budget adjustments/amendments as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. The City Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that the audit has begun and that a trial balance as been presented to the auditor and that confirmations have been sent out

VIII. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Proclamation Promoting Child Abuse Awareness Month

The Mayor read a proclamation promoting child abuse awareness month. He stated that the Pataula Center for Children does a good job locally to handle abuse cases. He then stated that it was being asked to wear blue on Fridays in April to help promote child abuse awareness month. He informed the Council that the City Hall employees would be participating with wearing blue on Friday's and again asked the public to do so as well.

Appointment to Planning Commission to replace Mr. Billy Glass



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The Mayor asked the Council if they had any nomination to replace Mr. Billy Glass on the Planning Commission. Councilmember Davis nominated Kimberly Fleming and Councilmember Hutchins nominated George Easom. The Mayor polled the Council. Councilmember Davis voted "YEAH" on Kimberly Fleming and Councilmembers Hutchins, Councilmember Jarrett and Councilmember Clenney voted "YEAH" on George Easom. The Mayor requested that the City Clerk notify George Easom, Kenneth Jones and the Building Official Mark Hawkins of the appointment of George Easom to the Planning Commission.

MEAG Year End Settlement

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve putting 100% of the year end settlement of \$202,604 into the flexible operating account of the Municipal Competitive Trust. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve putting 100% of the telecom settlement of \$1,017 into the flexible operating account of the Municipal Competitive Trust. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Councilmember Davis questioned the training for the Planning Commission members. The Mayor stated that there were enough members if the Council was included to have the training. The Mayor then questioned the Council as to whether they preferred in person or virtual training. The Council stated that they were good with virtual training.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to proceed with the water & sewer project on Dean/Deal St, as presented in the Work Session, for an approximate cost of \$202,640 with Stillwater Engineering putting out a bid proposal. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to proceed with the sewer project on Angus Dr and HWY 39, as presented in the Work Session, for an approximate cost of \$106,700 with Stillwater Engineering putting out a bid proposal. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Councilmember Hutchins questioned the 12" water project. The Mayor stated that he would get an updated cost estimate for completion along with checking on the easement to go under HWY 62.

The Mayor reminded the Council of the server migration that was part of the sale of fiber. He then updated the Council on the cost estimate for the migration stating that it would be



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approximately \$52,000 through NTS. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to move forward with the migration project. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor informed the Council that the Restore House had asked to use the City lot on Liberty St. for a Revival. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the use of the City lot on Liberty St. by the Restore House. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor presented three forklift bids to the Council, for the City Shop. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarret to approve the purchase of the Dynalift forklift in the amount of \$14,900. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor informed the Council that Wayne's Farm would like to use the Civic Center for a job fair. He then stated that he felt that there was still too much work that needed to be done to the Center before opening it back up for rental. He then asked the Council for approval to allow Wayne's Farm to hold their job fair in the Council Chambers. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to allow Wayne's Farm to use the Council Chambers for their job fair. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

The Mayor spoke on the re-opening of the City park. He informed the Council that he had personally witnessed why there were age limit rules put in place at the park. He then stated that he felt there was a need for a security guard at the park, through the Police Dept, to enforce the rules. He stated that presently the Police were going to pick up patrolling the park area but that there would possibly be a new hiring in the future for security.

The Mayor informed the Council that there was a need to purchase a different truck for the meter reading employee. He stated that with the meter reading position a more economical truck was needed and that the truck currently being used could be better utilized in another department. He stated that with this purchase two items would actually be accomplished. He informed the Council of a used Colorado in Bainbridge that was \$22,099 and that a new Colorado would cost between \$30,000 to \$40,000. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to purchase the used Colorado in the amount of \$22,099. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

IX. Public Comments



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JB Jones wanted to thank the Sheriff and Police Dept for their recent handling of some issues. He then spoke on drainage issues near his house. He stated that the drains need to be cleaned out.

Mr. Henderson came before the Council about junk vehicles in his neighborhood. He stated that the problem had gotten better but was starting to get bad again. He stated that these are hazards to children as well because of the snakes and other animals that may be in amongst these vehicles and children like to play on the junk cars. He then spoke of the bad condition of East South Blvd.

Mike Newberry thanked the Mayor and Council for the City's assistance with Peanut Proud and especially the use of the Government Complex conference room for the entertainers. He stated that he felt without the City's help each year Peanut Proud would not be the success that it is.

Celia Bostwick thanked the Mayor and Council for assistance with the cleanup day and with tire abatement currently being worked on.

Matthew, from Wayne's Farms thank the Mayor and Council for use of the Council Chambers for their job fair.

X. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to enter into Executive Session for Litigation, the motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to enter back into regular session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to adjourn the April 6th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor