



## Blakely City Council Minutes

May 4, 2021, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

### I. Public Hearing Rezoning Flowers Drive

The Attorney explained about the hearing. He informed the Mayor, Council and Public that this item had been tabled in the Planning Commission meeting. He then stated that the Mayor and Council could take no action until the Planning Commission takes action. He added that the public hearing could still take place and that this would be the only public hearing that is needed on this item even though no action could be taken by the Mayor and Council. The City Attorney then explained the changes regarding public hearings that were in the Resolution being presented later in the meeting. The City Attorney reiterated that in Resolution it states that both sides, those in favor and those in opposition, are allotted an equal amount of time to speak, approximately 10 minutes per person and that if one goes over then the opposite side gets the same equal time in the hearing. He then stated that after this hearing no further information can be presented on the item. The Mayor opened the hearing at 6:04. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the rezoning. There was no one present to speak in favor of the rezoning. The Mayor then asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition. Ms. Carruth Chadwell spoke in opposition. She gave some comments from members in the neighborhood on South Flowers. She informed the Mayor and Council that there are retirees, disabled, widowers and working class that take pride in their neighborhood. She stated they are a nonviolence neighborhood. She stated that they do not want a mobile home. She then stated that it was felt that a mobile home would devalue the properties in this area. She stated that she had taken notice of other mobile homes and how they were kept and stated that this is not wanted in their neighborhood. She then spoke on the traffic that go through this area because it is an access to downtown Blakely, the hospital, health department and shopping centers. She stated that the roads are narrow and that traffic such as semis and farm tractors already use these roads and that additional traffic is not needed unless the roads are updated. The Mayor asked if there was anyone else wished to speak in opposition. With no one else requesting to speak the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:08pm.

### II. Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush call 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, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence for those affected by COVID-19. Darryl Alexander gave the invocation. The Mayor, Council and Public gave the Pledge of Allegiance



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### III. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the minutes from the April 6th Work Session and Regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

### IV. Citizens And Delegations

Scotty Glass – Voltage Energy LLC – Solar Panels - was not present

Jason Dalton – Colonial Life

Mr. Dalton spoke on the background of Colonial Life out of Dothan AL. He then spoke on the value they could offer the City. He spoke on benefits that could be offered to the employees such as core benefits (health, dental), telemedicine, Group term life, disability, accident, critical care, dental/vision. He stated they have very stable rates. The Mayor stated that when other quotes come in everything would be reviewed and a decision made at that time.

### V. Administrative Committee

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Caudill gave his monthly report stating that they had a total of 786 calls. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if the speed limit machine could be placed on East South Blvd and in Merry Acres. The Mayor spoke on Officer Gregory, Officer Davis and Chief Caudill interacting with the youth in basketball games at the park and that this had a positive effect in the community.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

Lequisha Mincey gave the E911 monthly report stating that they had a total of 4,284 calls in April. Matt Hromalik came before the Council regarding issues at the radio tower that were discovered recently during a substation power outage. He stated that the generator didn't kick on and that he had gotten a quote for a backup battery in the amount of \$7,445 from Mobile Communications. He stated this would give an additional 12 hours. He stated that this would be split between several entities if approved. He stated that it had already been approved by Early County, the School System and Emergency Management and internally it would be split by PD, Fire, E911 and Public Works. He then stated that the security fencing needs to be upgraded since it had not been put back up after being taken down. He stated that Lane Davis had looked into this and the cost would be \$6,000 new on the fence around the site and the other fencing coming into the area would be around \$4,000. He stated that he and Lane had gone to see Craig Hughes, County Administrator, and that the County had some left over fencing from the Airport project that could be utilized and that the City would be responsible for the installation. He then stated that he had gotten a quote on a camera system for more security and that he had received a quote from BCIS for \$1,693. He stated that this was the higher end but could be cheaper if no monitoring was included. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and

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seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the City's portion of the battery backup in the amount of \$2,705. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the fencing with the fence being provided by the County and the City provide the labor and possible additional cost. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilmembers present.

Building Department -  
Rezoning of Flowers Drive - no action taken

Homer Reddick Building on South Main

Mr. Kenneth Jones stated that the property at 2289 S. Main St had gone to court for the third time in March, at which time Mr. Reddick was given 30 days to show some progress. Kenneth stated that nothing has taken place so the City now has the option to demolish the building or put on a roof and make repairs and then place a lien on the property against Mr. Reddick. He then stated that the City has 270 days to do which options they chose. He stated that either way will be expensive due to this being between two other buildings. The Mayor asked what the official start date was to which Kenneth stated that date was April 9<sup>th</sup>. Kenneth stated that if the City chose to do anything then the Clerk would place the tax lien on the property and try to collect using all methods available. The City Attorney stated that if the lien is not paid the City would go through the tax sale accordingly. The Mayor questioned if due to the condition which option should the City take. The City Attorney stated that due to the expense it would be easier to tear it down. Kenneth stated that either way would be difficult due to it being between two buildings. The City Attorney stated that if the City does nothing the process will start all over again. The Mayor stated that the Council will take this up at the next meeting.

Kenneth spoke on the water/sewer line extension in 2003. He stated that no easement was done at the time and only a verbal agreement. He stated that currently the County owns the property. He stated that the County signed the easement. The City Attorney stated that it was now before the City to accept the easement. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to accept the water/sewer line extension easement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Kenneth spoke on the training for the Planning Commission. He stated that they are looking at the third Monday and getting as many as possible for the Commission and Council to attend. He stated that the training could be done virtual or in person but that he thought they were coming in person and that this is a four-hour training. The Mayor questioned if the Planning Commission was meeting was still on that third Monday to which Kenneth stated that it was still scheduled for that day.



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### Alcohol License Magnolia Prime

Building Official, Mark Hawkins, came before the Council regarding an alcohol license for Magnolia Prime. He stated that this location was where the Quick Mart used to be. He stated that the previous applicant decided not to proceed with her application. He then stated that everything was clear and that they were requesting beer and wine. Councilmember Jarrett asked Mr. Hawkins if he was good with the application to which he stated that he was. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the beer and wine license for Magnolia Prime. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

### VI. City Attorney's Report

#### Resolution RE Public Zoning Hearings

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, again briefly explained the Public Hearing Resolution. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Public Hearing Resolution. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

#### CDBG Documents

- i. DCA Form 10
- ii. LAP Acknowledgement Form
- iii. Civil Rights Certification Form
- iv. DCA Meeting Checklist Form
- v. CDBG Disclosure Forms
- vi. Language Access Plan
- vii. Language Access Plan Resolution
- viii. Language Access Plan Requirement Form
- ix. Selection of Engineering Firm
- x. Engineering Selection Resolution
- xi. Maintenance/Certified Assurance Resolution
- xii. Service Delivery Strategy Compliance Resolution
- xiii. SAM Certification

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve all the CDBG documents in one motion. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

### VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with financial statements. She then presented a powerpoint presentation of the financials for the public. The Clerk then informed the Mayor



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and Council that several items had been requested from the auditor and these items had been presented.

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

Approval of Easement to Airport – taken care of earlier on the agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the sidewalk work on River St. per the quote presented by Jonathan Ebersole in the amount of \$15,240. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve settlement payment to the County for Public Safety in the amount of \$159,479.97. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve settlement payment to the Sheriff in the amount of \$3,486.44. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the City's half of the purchase of a 914 loader from Yancey, at the landfill, with the full cost being \$153,016 and the County to pay the other half. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the use of the City's lot on Liberty St. for a revival May 31- June 11<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Still Waters Engineering firm for the CDBG application, per the scoring tabulations. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor spoke on the American Cares Funds stating that once implemented there would be documents and conditions to follow. He stated that more information would be forth coming. He also stated that if all the funds were not used by 2024 any unused funds would have to be returned.

The Mayor reminded the public that COVID-19 vaccinations were being offered at local pharmacies.



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The Mayor informed the Council that there was a request for the use of the Jeanette King Park with a parade and community event on June 19<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the community event use of the Jeanette King Park. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

### IX. Public Comments

A citizen spoke on continued issued on Mulberry St. The citizen stated it takes three people to complain before Police will come. She spoke of loud music and that residents can't sleep. She requested that the Council come see Mulberry. She also spoke briefly on zoning issues.

Tracy Robinson questioned the due date for bids on the City property for sale to which the Mayor stated the deadline was the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

Celia Bostwick stated that she would like to continue to be updated on the Gateway project. She thanked everyone for the efforts being made on the Clean & Beautiful project. She requested littering signs. She also spoke about loud music at night and from cars during the day. She then spoke briefly on a literacy program and stated that she hoped the full Council was in support.

Darryl Alexander stated that he just wanted some clarity on the use of Jeanette King Park for the community event and wanted to know if a function three churches were looking at having needed to come before the Council also. The Mayor stated that they did not have to come before the Council and explain why he had presented the other event.

The Mayor and Council presented Adam Askew with employee of the month for the month of April.

### X. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to enter into Executive Session for Litigation. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

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

No actions were taken



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### XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the May 4<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

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Travis Wimbush, Mayor