



Blakely City Council Minutes

June 1, 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 Flin Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence for those affected by COVID-19. Councilmember Al Hutchins gave the invocation. Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Special Presentations
The Mayor read a Proclamation for Lane Davis for his quick response and initial first aid to an accident, at Hall's Drug store front, that happened on May 17th. The Proclamation also stated that due to his quick response prevented more danger to life and property. Lane Davis was then awarded employee of the month for all he does to in his job and to assist other departments.
- III. Approve Minutes
A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the minutes from the Work Session, May 4th City Council meeting and the May 24th Special Called meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present
- IV. Citizens And Delegations
Scotty Glass – Voltage Energy LLC – Solar Panels - Was not present

Celia Bostwick – Independence Day Fireworks

Celia Bostwick addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the City putting \$500 toward a firework display for July 4th. Celia stated that there had been discussion about not holding the display again this year but she feels that a lot of families may not be able to afford going out of town so the decision was made to move forward with the fireworks display. She stated that the board is going out to collected other donations. She stated that this would only be a fireworks display with no other entertainment or rides. Celia stated that the display would take place on July 1st because it is the most economical. The Mayor thanked Celia for her work toward trying to make the firework display happen and stated that he felt this was a good moral boost and good for helping to bring our community together. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the City's donation of \$500 toward the firework display. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present



Blakely City Council Minutes

V. Administrative Committee

Stephen Welch – Purchase of Bucket Truck

The Mayor informed Council of the ongoing issues and cost being incurred with the older bucket truck and that it currently has a hydraulic leak that could be up to a \$10,000 repair. He then informed the Council that three quotes had been gotten – Altec \$114,273, Global \$117,441 and National Utility Equipment \$119,157. He informed the Council that the funds for the truck were in an account so there would not have to be any financing. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to purchase a new bucket truck from Altec in the amount of \$114,273. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Will Caudill gave his monthly report stating that they had a total of 660 calls. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if they keep track of how many times they get called to the same location. Chief Caudill explained the process. He then informed the Mayor and Council that they had three employees leave but have four that that will be going to the academy, two that are already accepted for training. He also stated that the pay structure is being looked into and stated that he is getting information together from other areas regarding pay structures. There was discussion on the new hires.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

Lequisha Mincey gave the monthly report stating that they had a total of 4,547 calls. The Mayor asked an update on the security issue. Matt informed the Mayor and Council that Mobile Comm had gotten the battery back up partially installed but that they found moisture was getting into the building so they did a temporary patch job but it probably needs to be replaced. He then stated that the fence is being put on hold. He stated that the battery backup would be completed shortly.

Building Department -

Rezoning of Flowers Drive (continued from last month)

Mark Hawkins, the Building Official, informed the Mayor and Council that the Planning Commission had denied the rezoning due to being undeveloped. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to go with the Planning Commission's decision to deny the rezoning. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Homer Reddick Building on South Main (continued from last month)

Mark Hawkins gave the Mayor and Council and update on the building on South Main. He stated that there was someone interested in buying the building, from Homer Reddick, but was

CITY of BLAKELY

P.O. Box 350 | BLAKELY, GEORGIA 39823

TELEPHONE: 229.723.3677 | FAX: 229.723.2520

www.cityofblakely.net



Blakely City Council Minutes

unsure about the process. The City Attorney stated that the property could be sold but would be under the same order as the City.

Alcohol License for 12930 Magnolia Street

Mark Hawkins stated that the alcohol license was for the new store at 12930 Magnolia St. He stated that he was good with the application and that Chief Caudill had signed off his approval also. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the alcohol license for 12930 Magnolia Street. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Hutchins questioned Mark about a landscaping/surveying crew on North Howell St. He stated that this crew was not Holman Surveying. Mark stated that he didn't know who the company was nor whose property they were working on.

Councilmember Hutchins asked Mark Hawkins to get in contact with the person wanting the rezoning on Flowers Dr. and let them know of other lots available. Mark stated that the person was present in the meeting

VI. City Attorney's Report

There were no items from the City Attorney

VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with financials reports. She then gave a powerpoint presentation of the April financials for the public.

VIII. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

The Mayor presented the Council with surplus items for the possibility of sale. He asked the Council regarding placing the items on GovDeals as previous items had been sold. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to declare the items surplus and to place them on GovDeals for sale. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor informed the Council of the GMA Convention and stated that registration begins June 9th.

The Mayor discussed with the Council the ARPA funds. He reminded the Council that half would be allotted by the end of the month and briefly discussed use of the funds. The Mayor informed the Council that the Public Safety (Police, Fire, E911) is the only department the funds could be used for, regarding pay, and requested hazardous pay once the funds arrive. He suggested \$750

CITY of BLAKELY

P.O. Box 350 | BLAKELY, GEORGIA 39823

TELEPHONE: 229.723.3677 | FAX: 229.723.2520

www.cityofblakely.net



Blakely City Council Minutes

for full time employees and \$500 for part time employees. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the Mayor suggestion of \$750 for full time employees and \$500 for part time employees as hazardous pay. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor thanked Councilmember Hutchins for attending the Planning Commission training. Councilmember Hutchins stated that he had a DVD of the training if other members were interested.

The Mayor informed the Council that several churches were having Vacation Bible School, for three days, at Jeanette King Park, Washington Park and the Cedar Springs Apartments park area.

The Mayor informed the Council that the contractor had made the decision to move forward on the 2019 CDBG and had begun tear down of the next homes. He reminded the Council and public that the Regional Commission has put the CHIP grant on hold until August to see if the construction costs go down.

Dental Insurance Quotes

Sam Clinkscales spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding the City's current dental company-Nippon. He stated that the initial renewal quote had increased by 3.9% but that he had gone back to them and requested rate relief. He stated that Nippon had not only reversed the 3.9% increase but that they had also dropped the renewal by an additional 2%. He reminded the Mayor and Council that with the current plan City employees could go to any dentist. He also spoke of the roll-over option. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to stay with the current dental company at the decreased rate. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

IX. Public Comments

Ms. Patricia, at 245 Mulberry Ln, addressed with the Council issues of loud music and her driveway being used as a turn around. She spoke of other parties on different streets that have music so loud it could be heard in her area. She spoke about E911 signs that are down. She questioned plans for dilapidated houses and yards being cleaned up. She also wanted to know what the Police do in the evenings.

J.B. Jones questioned about infrastructure when the City gets their ARPA funds. He also stated that he would like to see the Police patrol more in his area. He also commented about loud music issues.



Blakely City Council Minutes

The owner of the lot on Flowers Dr. questioned why a mobile home could not be put on Flowers Dr. She then questioned why she should look at other lots.

Ms. Mells spoke about traffic on Flowers Dr and questioned signs about slowing down. She questioned if repairs were complete on the Civic Center. She also questioned when the Senior Center might reopen

X. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the June 1st City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor