



**Blakely City Council  
Minutes  
City Hall**

**November 3, 2020**

**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 Brad Clenney, Councilmember Al Hutchins and Councilmember Ray Jarrett were all present. Also present was the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence for the affect by COVID-19. Darryl Alexander gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II) Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the October 6<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

**III) Citizens And Delegations**

Frederick Thomas – Civic Center Rental - Was not present

La'Quevia Sheffield – Denial of Liquor License

Ms. La'Quevia Sheffield spoke regarding her request for a liquor license. She stated that they had met the requirements regarding the 50% food. The Mayor reminded the Council of the previous issues and why this had not been re-addressed until now. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis to approve the liquor license for Goldrush and to provide necessary documents within the next 12 months. There was not a second so the motion died due to a lack of a second. The Mayor asked Ms. Sheffield to meet with him regarding this item.

Priscilla George – Sidewalk Request, Resurface Streets, Street Signs

Ms. Priscilla George brought four things before the Council for consideration. She stated that a sidewalk was needed on South Flowers Drive from Cedar Ave North to Columbia Dr. She stated that it was due to a wheelchair bound resident who travels this area. She stated that a sidewalk would provide safety, mobility and walking for health benefits. She also stated that it could prevent possible pedestrian crashes. Ms. George's second request was for resurfacing of Baptist Branch, Cedar Ave, Garden Dr and Carrie Court. She stated that in speaking with long time community members and was told that these streets have not be resurfaced during their time. She stated that she had researched how often should streets be resurfaced and found that streets should be milled and resurfaced every 10-15 years. She gave examples of what this could help. She then requested the replacement of street signs and stop signs due to fading, weather and natural causes. She stated these streets are Flowers Dr/Cedar Ave., Baptist Branch Rd/Cedar Ave., Baptist Branch Rd/Carrie Court, Baptist Branch Rd/Garden Dr. and Chattahoochee Ave/Garden Dr. She stated that her final item is a speed limit sign of 30 MPH located on S. Flowers Dr across from the Health Dept is attached

to a telegram pole and wants to know if the sign can be removed and placed on the correct type of pole so that it can be seen. She stated that she would appreciate the Mayor and Council's consideration regarding the items she presented.

**IV) Administrative Committee**

Chief Will Caudill gave his month activity report. He then informed the Council that Aquinita Reed was being reemployed. He informed the Council that the three trunk or treat events had gone very well. He spoke a little on his current fleet of vehicles and stated that the three new/used vehicles the Mayor had approved were almost ready. He then informed the Council that he was working on updating the departments Use of Force Policy. The Mayor spoke of loud noise complaints and asked if something in the Ordinance needs to be addressed regarding enforcement.

E-911 Director, Matt Hromalik, gave his monthly activity report. The Mayor spoke of the E-911 personnel shortage and thanked Matt and the department for the service that they have continued to provide even with this shortage.

**V) City Attorney's Report**

Municipal Competitive Trust Resolution

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Municipal Competitive Trust Resolution naming the Mayor and Councilmember Jarrett and the authorized officials. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

**VI) City Clerk's Report**

The City Clerk gave her month financial report

**VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council**

MEAG Sale of Excess Reserve Capacity

The Mayor informed the Council that this was needed due to the previous administration dropping one of the power resources. He then informed the Council that the additional cost would be around \$10,000, that there was a Resolution for the City Attorney to review but that this Letter Agreement needed to be approved by Council to meet the necessary reserve capacity. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the purchase of power, from the City of Cairo, to meet the City's reserve capacity. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor informed the Council that the ECG year end settlement check had been received and deposited in the General Fund.

The Mayor informed the Council the end of the surplus sale and that it had gone better than expected.

The Mayor spoke to the Council of a new trailer purchase at the Landfill. He stated that the County had approved the purchase of the lowest bid in the amount of \$63,850 which included a new type of tarp system and that this cost would be split with the County. He also stated that the funds would come from the SPLOST account. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the purchase of a new trailer/tarp system at the Landfill. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor updated the Council on the Civic Center. He stated that the last item to approve was the wax/stripping of the floor and will present those proposals at the special called meeting later in November.

The Mayor informed the Council that the trunk or treat had a great response and thanked Ms. Williams and Kristi Jackson for their work in getting it arranged.

Councilmember Hutchins stated that he had been asked by some citizens why the Mayor had stopped doing his Thursday FB live updates. The Mayor stated that it was mainly due to his work schedule.

The Mayor informed the Council that the sale of BlakelyNet to Diverse Power was final.

The Mayor informed the Council that the final Census numbers were 41.4% for Early County.

The Mayor thanked the Electric Department Supervisor for going to Marietta to assist from Hurricane Zeta. He informed the Council that Marietta had assisted the City during Hurricane Michael.

The Mayor thanked the Gas Dept for their work in getting zero findings on their 5yr gas inspection.

The Mayor thanked the Police Dept for their work in a recent traffic stop where a large amount of marijuana was confiscated and taken off the street.

The Mayor stated that Councilmember Davis and himself had gone to Colquitt to received the award of the CHIP Grant in the amount of \$300,000. He stated that this was another way the City was working toward the housing issues in the City and that there would be around six homes that could be rehabbed.

### **VIII) Public Comments**

Ms. Tiner spoke on the utility assistance funds and of several people who had received the funds twice. She spoke of her right not to be heard on something she felt was not recurring but how the liquor license was recurring and yet that individual had gotten to speak. She spoke on the time frame the minutes are put on the website.

Mr. Tiner spoke again on bondsman related items/assets

Celia Bostwick thanked the City for their support of the Red Ribbon campaign, their help with the trunk or treat. She then stated a concern regarding the amount of trash around the Dollar General and Harvey's. She gave examples of the amounts of trash in this area and stated the visual and health issues this presents. She asked for the Council's support regarding a Community clean up and how children need to be educated.

### **IX) Executive Session**

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to enter into Executive Session regarding personnel and litigation. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

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

No actions were taken regarding the Executive Session after entering back into regular session.

The Mayor asked the Council and citizens to pay close attention during this time of year, regarding COVID-19, and to please practice according to guidelines. He then informed the Council that if cases started to climb additional safety measure may need to be taken.

The Mayor informed the Council that a Land, Erosion and Sediment Grant was being applied for to do additional work at the Jeanette King Memorial Park and to create a park area on Meadowbrook. He informed the Council that this was a 50-50 match grant and that there was a resolution to needed to be passed to move forward with this grant. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Resolution. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

**X) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adjourn the November 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

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Travis Wimbush, Mayor