



**Blakely City Council
Minutes
City Hall**

December 1, 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 Tony Thompson and those affected by COVID-19. Councilmember Al Hutchins 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 minutes from November 3rd, the November 23rd budget workshop and the November 23rd Special Called meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

III) Citizens And Delegations

La'Quevia Sheffield – Denial of Liquor License

Ms. Sheffield came before the Mayor and Council to inform them that she now has all the state and Health Dept. documents regarding food sales. She asked to be given time to produce gross sales receipts on food sale for the alcohol license. The Mayor questioned the City Attorney on whether that portion of the Ordinance could be waived. The City Attorney stated that it could not be waived but the Ordinance could be changed regarding the 50% food sales. He then stated that the Ordinance could be changed at the next meeting. Councilmember Davis questioned how the 50% food sales could be proved. The Mayor explained to Ms. Sheffield what was going to be done regarding the Ordinance change. The City Attorney asked if the Mayor and Council wanted to do away with the 50% food sales altogether or just change the timing on when to show proof. The Council agreed that they wanted to change the timing on when to show proof.

Frederick Thomas – Civic Center Rental

Was not present. Councilmember Hutchins stated that Mr. Thomas lives in Dothan and wants to rent the center on a regular basis for Church services. Councilmember Hutchins stated that he believes this goes against the policy

Danielle Williams – Christmas Community Event

Ms. Williams came before the Mayor and Council regarding holding a community event for kids for Christmas. She informed the Mayor and Council that she had two places in mind, one being the Birdsong warehouse, the other being on the Courthouse steps. She explained that this would be for Santa to read The Night Before Christmas. She also stated that all safety guidelines would be followed regarding social distancing and prepackaged good such as

cookies & hot chocolate. She informed the Mayor and Council that she was looking at December 19th around 3:00pm. The Mayor commended Ms. Williams for her work at Halloween with the Trunk or Treat. The Mayor also stated that the Council Chambers could be used if the other locations didn't work out. There was discussion regarding cost for refreshments to which Ms. Williams state that she felt she could get volunteers/donations on the refreshments Ms. Williams spoke on how the function would be handled. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to give City support. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

IV) Administrative Committee

Will Caudill – Updates and guidance for alcohol licenses

Police Chief, Will Caudill, gave the monthly report of Police activity. He informed the Mayor and Council that the speed detection trailer was down and of the difficulty in finding parts. He spoke of needing to update the speed detection permit on streets. He then spoke on the alcohol license renewals. He stated that he had no objections to the renewals but that per his interpretation of the Liquor by Drink Alcohol License Ordinance he didn't feel the correct amounts were being collect. He stated that he thinks that the City is only collecting for the on-premises consumption but not for the sale of liquor by drink like gets collected for beer and wine. He then stated that information on food gross sales was not being checked. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to enforce the license currently in effect. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. Councilmember Hutchins questioned Chief Caudill of the incident on Woodlawn and South Central and that it wasn't on his report. Chief Caudill explained what/when items go on his report

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

E-911 Director Matt Hromalik gave his monthly report. There was discussion between Councilmember Jarrett and Matt Hromalik regarding mutual aid and agreements in place regarding mutual aid. The Mayor spoke to Matt Hromalik regarding address signs, especially since Hurricane Michael. Matt Hromalik spoke on the replacement of signs and the procedures.

Adam Askew – Bids for Camera Equipment

Adam Askew spoke to the Council regarding bids for the camera equipment. He reminded the Council of the cost to hire a contractor to do the camera work. He stated that M. E. Sacks, the engineer had put together a bid tab on the bids received for camera equipment. He stated four companies had send back proposals. The first company Cue Inc was \$203,956, Adams Equipment Co was \$237,259, Wade Ford was \$238,534 and Jet-Vac was \$243,997. He stated that it would take 90-120 days to get the equipment in and only a PO was required at the present time. The Mayor questioned if all four met Mr. Sacks qualifications to which Adam Askew stated they did. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to table this item until the special called meeting in December. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

V) City Attorney's Report

First Reading Of Budget Ordinance

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman read the heading of the Budget Ordinance. This constituted the first read. He then stated that it was his understanding there would be a special called meeting for the adoption of the Budget Ordinance/Budget.

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman then spoke to the Council regarding the bondsman license. He stated that when looking into this issue he stated that the State passes laws to

regulate some activities and means the City is preempted from regulating. He spoke of some differences between what the State passes and the City has concurring jurisdiction in Municipal Court and what the City does not have jurisdiction in Municipal Court. He then explained about bondsman and what the State law is that the City does not have the right to regulate. He stated that he felt the City Ordinance conflicts with State law because it provides extra regulation, and that the Sheriff has the right to approve bondsman and the City does not. He recommends the Ordinance be amended to take out the City's right to regulate. He stated that the only things the City could do is provide a business license. He provided a copy of the amended Ordinance to the Mayor and Council. The Mayor asked the Council if they wanted to make a motion and dispense of the second reading at this meeting or if they wanted more time to review. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Ordinance and dispense of the second reading. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk provided the Mayor and Council with financial reports. She then gave powerpoint presentation on the financials for the public.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

2021 Meeting Dates

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the 2021 meeting dates. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

2021 Holidays

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the 2021 Holidays. The Mayor reminded the Council and public that July 4th falls on Sunday and would therefore be observed by the City on Monday July 5th. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Reappointments to SWGRC

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the reappointment of Councilmember Hutchins and non-public member Freddy Speight to the SWGRC. Councilmember Hutchins asked if any other Councilmember wanted to be appointed. With no other Councilmembers spoke up regarding changing the appointment. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Renewal of Alcohol Licenses

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the renewal of the alcohol licenses for 2021. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Triangle Energy LED Lighting Proposal

A Triangle Energy representative went over the LED lighting proposal. He stated that the total cost would be 79,180 and that the best option was to pay \$7229 down with monthly payments of \$1198. He briefly went over the financing options. He stated that this would cover City Hall, the City Barn, the Civic Center, the Senior Center and Water/Gas building. The CID building was questioned, to which the representative stated they would look at the CID building to incorporate into the proposal. He explained the differences/benefits in having their company do the installation. The City Attorney gave a brief explanation about financing processes and asked that the information be forwarded for their review along with all financing documents. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded

by Councilmember Davis to move forward with the project making a decision on payment (pay if full or finance) after City Attorney's review of the proposal and financing documents. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Reopening of Civic Center

The Mayor reminded the Council of the guidelines the City Attorney had provided. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to re-open the Civic Center effective immediately per the guidelines provided. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. The Council agreed that if there is something such as Mr. Thomas's request, at the Civic Center, that it come before the Council. The Council agreed to this procedure.

Planning Commission Training

The Mayor stated that Kenneth Jones has found a class that up to 12 people could attend so the Mayor and Council could also attend. He also stated that a policy regarding the Planning Commission and serving on the Commission be put in place. He stated that the cost is \$1200. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the Planning Commission training. The Mayor questioned what if the class is not attended and should this be a requirement. Councilmember Davis stated that this should be required. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. Councilmember Hutchins questioned how many meetings a member could miss. The City Attorney stated that they are appointed so a notice should be sent if any action toward them would be taken.

Councilmember Jarrett stated that it was being looked at that each Councilmember would be assigned three departments to monitor and along with this a 3% increase each year for the Councilmembers. The City Attorney stated that there was a special statute on Council pay increases. He explained how this process works and that he would have to think about how this could be done annually. He stated that it couldn't be done until January 2021 and that it would have to be passed sometime between January 1st and qualifying in August. Councilmember Hutchins questioned cost of living regarding retirement. The City Attorney stated that the plan would need to be looked at because it is governed by the language of the plan.

The Mayor spoke of supporting the EC football team Friday night.

The Mayor spoke of the CDC guidelines regarding COVID and continuous following of these guidelines especially with the upcoming cold and flu season

The Mayor reminded the public of the runoff election coming up in January

The Mayor spoke of the Health Dept getting with local leadership regarding the COVID vaccination and meetings that will need to be attended and City assistance.

The Mayor and Council set December 15th at 6:00pm for the Special Called meeting due to the fact that it needed to be advertised a week before the adoption. The Mayor reminded the Council that at the special called meeting or the January meeting a nomination would be needed to replace Tony Thompson on the Rec Dept Board

VIII) Public Comments

Hope Fleming spoke regarding the alcohol license for Ms. Sheffield. She stated that food sales have not been proved in the past nor has the correct amount been collected and yet the Council has not approved Ms. Sheffield's license. She stated that she feels other businesses alcohol license not be approved until they prove food sales. She questioned if the Council was willing to go back and address Ms. Sheffield's license.

Mr. Tiner again spoke on the show of assets/escrow accounts regarding bondsman license. He spoke of regulations. He also questioned any further disciplinary actions to the City employee.

IX) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to adjourn the December 1st City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor