



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

November 3, 2015

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

I) Public Hearing

Rezoning 18431 East South Blvd - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones informed the Council that rezoning for this location has been ongoing. He informed the Council of the status of the building. He stated that in June a consent order was issued and that it was ordered that the building be torn down. He informed the Council that the asbestos check was done and the paperwork stating this was being processed. He stated that the Planning Commission had recommended approval with the stipulation that is rezoned, for storage buildings; a chain link fence is installed around the property and that only storage buildings be built on the property. He stated that the owner, Mr. Thompson, wants to keep the slab in place for the storage buildings.

Mr. Seaborn Grist spoke in opposition of the rezoning stating that his main issue was that there were no plans for the storage buildings. He stated that he thinks the description is too vague by just saying storage buildings. He also stated that the owners are in violation of the consent order to tear the building down. In closing he stated that he feels that it doesn't make sense to approve the rezoning with these items outstanding.

Another citizen, who owns property next to this property, stated that he doesn't have a problem with storage buildings being built. He also questioned why the building was not down yet, per the consent order and why the owners don't have to follow the law. He then stated that he feels that no action should be taken until the owners are in compliance.

Rezoning 2036 South Main Street - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that the property is owned by Chase Brooks. He stated that it is being asked to rezone the property to O1. He then stated that it would still need to be approved as conditional use. He stated that the house next door to this property is zoned similarly. He informed the Council that the Planning Commission approved the rezoning. He informed the Council that if necessary items may need to be brought to code. Mr. Jones stated that he had spoken with Mr. Brooks about the old garage and vegetative growth. Councilman Middleton questioned the O1 zone, to which was answered Occupational Zone. Councilman Hutchins questioned the exact location.

The Public Hearing was called to a close at 6:15

II) Call to Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton, Councilwoman Margaret Wimberly and Councilman Andy Smith were all present. Pastor Gloria Wynds gave the invocation. The Mayor led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Ms. Hayden Hooks and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

III) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes from the October 6th meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Council members present.

IV) Citizens and Delegations

V) Administrative Committee Reports

Variance Verizon Sign Court Square - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that variance was for the signage in regards to the CBD sign regulations. He briefly went through some restrictions in the Ordinance. He then stated that the key issue is the material of the sign. He also stated that the sign meets the size requirements and that the sign at the H&R Block office is similar. He stated that the fact that the sign will be plastic and lit is what makes it non compliant. The City

Attorney then went through some portions of the Ordinance. The Mayor stated that the Ordinance was put in place to keep the historic look on the square and that others have not been made to adhere to the Ordinance. The Mayor reminded the Council of the recent variance for the Bank of Early sign. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the sign as presented. Councilman Hutchins then questioned if this item had gone before the Planning Commission. Mr. Jones stated that it did not have to go before the Planning Commission. Mr. Jones was asked if disapproved were there any other options to present. The motion did not carry with Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voting "Yeh", Councilman Hutchins and Councilwoman Wimberly voting "Nay" and the Mayor broke the tie with a vote of "Nay." The Mayor stated that he would like to see other options.

Rezoning 18431 East South Blvd - Councilman Hutchins questioned Mr. Jones about the consent order. Mr. Jones explained the items of the consent order. Councilman Middleton questioned the results of the asbestos inspection to which Mr. Jones stated that the reports was not yet in the owners hands. The Mayor questioned how much control the Council had over what could go in this location to which the City Attorney replied that they did not have much. Mr. Jones then stated that he had thought of the possibility of a conditional use restriction. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to table the rezoning until the building was torn down and plans for the storage buildings was presented. The motion carried unanimously by the Council members present.

Rezoning 2036 South Main Street - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the rezoning of 2036 S. Main St. to O1. The motion carried unanimously by the Council members present.

VI) City Attorney's Report

First Reading of Fireworks Ordinance - Kenneth Jones informed the Council that this Ordinance was in regards to having temporary stands and the regulation of these stands. He stated that also included in this Ordinance was that licenses and heavy insurance would have to be gotten. He stated that there was also the possibility of Fire Marshall regulations. There was a first reading of the Firework Ordinance.

Credit Card Policy - The City Attorney explained the changed in the Ordinance and informed the Council that the changes were due to amendments in the State law. She informed the Council that they, along with GMA, have come up with verbiage for the Ordinance. There was a first reading of the Credit Card Policy Ordinance.

VII) City Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented the Council financial reports. She gave the Council an update on all the ongoing projects. The Clerk asked Water Treatment Supervisor, Adam Askew, to speak in regards to a cost issue with the meters for the wells. He stated an additional \$2,159.00 would be needed for the system, due to the quote not incorporating all three meters. Mayor Howard asked the Council to vote on the amount needed. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the additional funds in the amount of \$2,159.00 for the well meters and integration to the new monitoring system. The motion was carried unanimously by the Council members present.

VIII) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

Oxford Quote for Jessie Johnson Resurfacing - The Mayor informed the Council of the condition of the existing surface of the portion of road that had been submitted to DOT as an LMIG project. He then informed the Council of the quote submitted by Oxford and the form of fabric solution intended to be used to help with the asphalt/concrete problems on this road. He informed the Council that the Oxford quote was in the amount of \$79,860.00 of which \$51,000 was from DOT LMIG and the balance to be paid by the City which is the City's 30% portion plus some additional funds. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Oxford quote. The motion carried unanimously by the Council members present.

Blankenship Quote for Sewer Repairs - The Mayor explained the individual items of the Blankenship quote. He informed the Council of manhole replacement on Victoria St., Malone St. and of the pillar that needs to be replaced underneath a sewer line behind the Shiners Club. He informed the Council that the full quote for all the work was \$18,005.00. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the Blankenship quote in the amount of \$18,005.00. The motion carried unanimously by Council members present.

Bids for Audit – Tabled From October Meeting [see October Minutes] - The Clerk informed the Council of the results to the questions regarding additional charges that might arise from the audit firm Burke, Worsham & Harrell, Inc, which the Council had requested at the previous Council meeting. The Mayor then questioned the Clerk regarding her recommendation of firms and why. The Clerk informed the Council that she would recommend Geer & Associates and stated her

reasons for that decision. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Geer & Associates proposal in the amount of \$22,500.00 per year for the term of five years. The motion carried unanimously by the Council members present.

Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Resolution - The Mayor briefly explained the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Resolution and why this item is done yearly. He informed the Council that the amount of refund for year 2014 is \$5,356.93. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Resolution for the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund refund. The motion carried unanimously by the Council members present.

The Clerk presented documents retrieved off of Facebook regarding an event that would be taking place at Pokey's Event Center on November 6th. She informed the Council that due to these items she did not feel that she should be the one to approve the one day alcohol license and would like to turn the decision over to the Council. The Mayor then explained that the documents alluded to adult entertainment which is not allowed according to the Ordinance. The Council reviewed the documents. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to deny the one day alcohol license for Shekira Snipes. The motion carried unanimously by the Council members present.

Councilman Hutchins questioned funding for streets. The Clerk informed the Council that DOT LMIG and SPLOST funds could be used.

IX) Public Comments

A citizen questioned if there were certain amounts of fireworks that could be purchased and if there were certain kinds that could be sold or purchased.

A citizen question if the Council was going to do anything to help the citizens regarding the cable issues in the City with Blakely Cable shutting down. The Mayor stated that the City was looking into working with SGRITA for fiber in Blakely with the possibility of bundling services such as internet and cable.

A citizen questions what the paid post officer security guards, at the event center, are supposed to do for the \$25 per hour they receive. The Mayor and Council explained that they are supposed to uphold the law and monitor the event, inside and out.

A citizen, Joanne Sparrow, questioned water coming out of the road and water sitting on her property. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that her house is located in a low area but that Holman Surveying has been looking at the grade at this location. He stated that the City could possibly get an easement to ditch and maintain an area to help with the water issues. He also stated that Jack Watson was the property owner.

X) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to adjourn the November 3rd City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by the Council members present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor