



**Blakely City Council  
Minutes**

**December 1, 2015**

**City Hall**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) 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. Sister Wells gave the invocation. The Mayor led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

**II) Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the three sets of minutes from the November 3rd, 12th, and 20th City Council meetings. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

**III) Citizens And Delegations**

**IV) Administrative Committee Reports**

**Meredith Whitehead - Rezoning Redbud** - Ms. Meredith Whitehead came before the Council to ask them to consider rezoning her property on Redbud from R1 to PUD. She talked to the Council about several areas where rezoning had taken place. She then commented that these areas were in predominantly black communities. Ms. Whitehead reviewed several years of Council activity regarding zoning of properties. She briefly spoke of her several visits before the Council regarding rezoning of this piece of property. She then stated that the only difference between her request and the ones she had just presented was that the others were in majority black neighborhoods and that hers property was in a majority white neighborhood. The City Attorney questioned Ms. Whitehead as to her actual request. He reminded Ms. Whitehead and the Council that the only action that could be taken was to set aside the one year waiting period to bring the rezoning issue back before the Planning Commission and Council. The City Attorney went over the Ordinance to remind Ms. Whitehead and the Council that the entire process would have to be completed, which meant going before the Planning Commission and Council and the public hearings. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wimberly and Councilman Hutchins to set aside the one year wait period and allow Ms. Whitehead to start the rezoning process. Let the record show that the motion carried with Councilwoman Wimberly and Councilman Hutchins voting "YEH", Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voting "NAY" and the Mayor breaking the tie with a vote of "YEY."

**Review Changes to Zoning Map** - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, informed the Council that the revised map had been received. He presented the map and showed several citizen request for changes. He reminded the Council that they needed to review the map regarding these changes and any others that they may see. He then went through the process to be followed before finalization of the map, which would be to make their changes, send it back to RDC to for revision and that it would then need to come back before the Council for approval. Councilman Hutchins questioned why only the right side of Walker Springs road was asked to be rezoned. He was informed that the other side was zoned properly.

Mr. Jones updated the Council on the skating rink issue. He stated that the asbestos letter had been received and that demolition should be starting soon. He stated that the owners had purchased the permits for demolition. He then informed the Council that restriction could be put in place regarding the rezoning for storage building as discussed in a previous meeting.

**Violation at Pokey's** - The City Attorney reminded the Council of the letter that he had written and presented to them at the November 20th meeting. He stated that this letter would revoke Pokey's license and grant him a hearing. He briefly went over some of the items that brought this about. Councilwoman Wimberly questions if tickets regarding these items were issued. The City Attorney stated that the issue regarding tickets was that the Post Certified Officer's stayed outside and did not go inside to see what activities were taking place. He reminded the Council that several people have stated this to the Council. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by

Councilman Hutchins to proceed and send the letter, as written, to Pokey. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

**V) City Attorney's Report**

**Second Reading and Adoption of Fireworks Ordinance** - The City Attorney briefly reviewed the purpose for this Ordinance and stated that these changes were due to changes in the law. He reminded the Council that this Ordinance also allowed for temporary stands and the regulations that these stands would have to follow and the license requirements for any business to sell fireworks. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to adopt the Firework Ordinance presented by the City Attorney. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

**First Reading of Budget Ordinance** - There was a first reading of an Ordinance providing for the adoption of a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016

**First Reading of Ordinance Amending the Event Center License** - The City Attorney informed the Council that this Ordinance establishes a 30 day advance time for alcohol license approval and that an event cannot take place without a GA Dept. of Rev. license as well. He also stated that it provided that a license for the sale of alcohol could not be issued for any event at any location where a license to sell alcohol had been revoked or suspended. He also stated that it incorporated a replacement to section 8 of the Event Center Ordinance, which is that one PCO would have to be provided for every 100 people at an event. There was a first reading of the Ordinance Amending Ordinance #2013-010 Regulating the Rental or Use of Properties for Events; Providing for Applications for One Day Licenses; Requiring Certified Police Officers to be at the Events.

**First Reading of Ordinance Providing for Security for On Premise Consumption** - The City Attorney informed the Council that this Ordinance provides for one PCO to be provided for every 100 people on premises and that they should be stationed inside the building. He also stated that this Ordinance states that no license for the sale of alcohol shall be issued to any applicant for a location within 300ft of any other location where a license for the on premise sale of alcohol has been issued, except for those location that have over 50% gross income from the sale of food. There was a first reading of the Ordinance Providing for Security for Those Locations Licensed for the On-Premise Consumption of Malt Beverages and Wine.

**Credit Card Policy** - The City Attorney briefly explained to the Council that this Credit Card Policy was due to law changes. He stated that the law required a Credit Card Policy which discloses how credit cards are to be used. He informed the Council that if not adopted City credit cards could not be used after January 1, 2016. The Council was informed that this had come before them at the November meeting but a revision to remove City Manager had been made. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to adopt the Credit Card Policy and Credit Card Ordinance provided by the City Attorney. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

**VI) City Clerk's Report**

The City Clerk presented the Council with financial reports. The Clerk updated the Council on the current projects being worked on in the City. The Clerk then requested that the Council hold a special called meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm to review the final budget figures so as to adopt the final budget and budget ordinance. The Council members agreed to meet on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Meeting Dates for 2016** - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the 2016 meeting dates presented with the correction of adding the 2nd onto August due to the actual day not being present on the documentation presented to the Council. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

**Reappointments to the SWGRC board** - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to re-appoint Freddy Speight (non-public) and Councilman Al Hutchins to the SWGRC Board. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

**Petition Speed on Lancelot** - The Council approved a speed break on Lancelot. The Council stated it was to be constructed just as the speed break on Victoria St.

**CHIP Grant** - The Mayor informed the Council that this had been discussed in the November 7th meeting regarding the updates on the City/County Comprehensive Plan. He reminded the Council that the City had previous tried for the CHIP Grant and been denied. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to move forward on applying for the CHIP Grant. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

**CDBG Basis of Selection** - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve Advocates for a Better Community as the consulting firm for the new CDBG project. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to table the decision on the engineering firm until the grading process had been completed. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilmember's present. The Council then agreed for the City Clerk to complete the grading process.

**Quote for new lift station @ Dr. Brooks' on Hwy 62**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the quote from Blankenship Contracting in the amount of \$28,880 for the installation of the new lift station on Hwy 62. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

**VIII)Public Comments**

Shirley Harris spoke to the Council regarding Pokey's Event Center. She informed the Council of how nice the building is inside. She stated that her hopes are that the Police handle the situations that need to be handled and that it wouldn't affect those that do things correctly. She stated that she is trying to do right and had made sure that she confirmed everything regarding her event with the Building Official, Kenneth Jones.

Nancy Wright spoke the Council about the Ordinance presented at this meeting. She questioned if there was a timeline on the restriction of portion stating "not the same type of business." She requested that the Council review installing a timeline.

Pokey's sister spoke to the Council regarding why Pokey is held accountable for what someone else does at the Event Center. She spoke of the posters being marketing tools. She asked the Council to consider not holding Pokey responsible for others actions.

**IX) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the December 1st City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor