



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

August 4, 2015

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

I) Public Hearing – Change to Zoning Ordinance

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:00p.m. The City Attorney stated that this hearing was due to a change in the Zoning Ordinance. He explained to the Council and public that this change was to bring the City into compliance with State laws regarding residential industrial buildings. The Mayor then questioned if anyone in the public had any questions or concerns. Upon no response from anyone in the public the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:05p.m.

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

The Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. The Mayor welcomed the newly elected Council member, Ms. Margaret Wimberly. Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton, Councilman Smith and Councilwoman Margaret Wimberly were all present. Councilman Smith gave the invocation. Mayor Howard 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.

III) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes for the July 7th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously

IV) Citizens and Delegations

Tommy Jive Wright – Limb on Love Street - Mr. Wright came before the Council to question a piece of property on Deal St. that Mr. Fred Sawyer says belongs to the City and someone from the City says that they don't. The Mayor informed Mr. Wright that the best thing to do would be to go to the Tax Assessors office and look it up on the map and get a copy of the card that has the name and address of the owner of the property. The Mayor told Mr. Wright to have Mr. Sawyer give a copy of the deed where he gave the property to the City. Mr. Wright stated that he would like to buy the piece of property. The Mayor then informed Mr. Wright if the property does belong to the City then it would have to go through a process of being sold as surplus property and open to anyone to bid.

V) Administrative Committee Reports

Audit Report - Mr. Will Geer from Geer & Associates came before the Council to present the audit report. He gave an overview of the audit report stating the City's financial position. He went through the profit & loss and income statement to compare last year to this year. He informed the Council that Business-type activities are the utilities and the General Fund is the administration of the City. He went through the total primary column (on page 6) stating the difference in figures from 2013 to 2014. He then went over the areas that increased stating that there was an overall increase from 16.5 million, in 2013 to 17.4 million, in 2014. He then stated that expenses had little change and that the net position change went from 883,023, in 2013 to 1.7 million in 2014. He stated that the majority of the increase was from capital grants. He then went to page 4 and again went over differences from 2013 to 2014. He went over the City's total assets to the City's total liabilities and the City's investments, which are mainly the Municipal Trust. He completed this section stating that the City's total net position changed from 13.6 million, in 2013 to 15.3 million in 2014. He then informed the Council that they had some things to work through from the 2013 audit but that it was done and submitted on time this year. The Mayor and Council thank Mr. Geer for coming in on short notice and getting the audit done in a timely manner.

VI) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading and Adoption of General Election Ordinance - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the General Election Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously

First Reading of Ordinance Amending Zoning Ordinance - The City Attorney gave the first reading the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Blakely in order to ensure compliance with O.C.G.A 8-2-112 regarding placement of certain residential industrial buildings.

VII) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with monthly financial reports. She informed the Council that the City finished the month of July with \$388,224.31 in the bank. She presented the yearly bank balance sheet showing that there was a decrease from the previous month of \$121,536.96. She provided and briefly went through a write up on all the projects going on in the City at the present time. The Mayor asked the Clerk to check into a lift station for possible rehab at the Huddle House.

VIII) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

Appoint Council Member to Replace Torre Mills' Spot on the Public Safety Board

The Mayor stated, for the record, that Councilman Middleton and he were on the board presently and that Councilman Mills had been before his resignation from the Council. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to nominate Councilwoman Wimberly to fill the seat on the Public Safety Board left vacant when Councilman Mills resigned. The motion carried unanimously

Appointment to the Library Board - Councilman Smith stated that Mr. Guy Dunaway has been serving up to now but that he has stated that he would like to step down. Councilman Smith informed the Council that Brenda Wall had recommended Monica Ceasar to fill the position. He then stated that the Clerk had spoken to Ms. Ceasar and that she was willing to accept the position. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the nomination of Monica Ceasar to the Library Board. The motion carried unanimously

Councilman Hutchins questioned if gas has been cut off is there a continued charge for meter rental. The Clerk informed the Council and public that there is not a charge for meter rental at all and if he gives her the name she would look into the matter.

IX) Public Comments

Mr. JB Jones Jr. came before the Council to state that he does not receive his check until the 4th Wednesday of each month and that his services had been disconnected. He stated that it was hot and he felt they should not have cut off his service. The Mayor informed Mr. Jones that the City uses the National Weather Service regarding temperatures during cut off, that it goes according to actual temperature not heat index and that the City follows the laws regarding this.

Ms. Jacquelyn Henderson came before the Council to again question why the City disconnects services on utility bills not paid for the month. She stated that other areas allow two months. The Mayor reminded Ms. Henderson that the Ordinance and law is being followed according to disconnects. He again asked Ms. Henderson to present information from these areas to the Council and they would look at that information and the City Ordinance.

Ms. Sewell questioned holes and drainage on Butler, N. Ave. and Church. The Mayor informed her that we were looking into drainage problems in that area and that Charlie Wade, the head of the Street Department, would look into the large holes in the road.

X) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the August 4th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Anthony Howard, Mayor