



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

SEPTEMBER 17, 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, Councilman Andy Smith and Councilwoman Margaret Wimberly were all present. Councilman Al Hutchins gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also let the record show that the City Clerk, Melinda Crook was also present.

II) Citizens And Delegations

Chrystal McDaniel-benefit for George Cuff Ms. McDaniel was not present.

Wanda Hudson 2016 CDBG - Wanda Minks came before the Council to ask if the City wanted to apply for CDBG Grant funds. Mrs. Minks provided resolutions and gave a brief background on CDBG's for Councilwoman Wimberly. She informed the Council of the issues with the engineer last year and stated that the City did not apply, which makes us eligible this year. She also explained to the Council what CDBG can be used for and stated that it can only be used in low to moderate income areas. Mrs. Minks also explained different forms of leverage stating that the City had put \$50,000 with the last CDBG. There was discussion between Ms. Minks and the Council. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Resolution to apply for the CDBG Grant. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Resolution for the City's match. The motion carried unanimously.

III) City Attorney's Report

Resolution for 2016 CDBG - Approved above

Animal Shelter Volunteer Package - Animal Control Department has requested The City set up a volunteer program for Animal Control. The City is checking with the insurance company to review the volunteer package to measure the City's liability. a motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approved the Volunteer Program pending consent from the insurance company. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Howard gave an update in regards to the estimate presented by ECG for the GPS mapping of the water lines, valves, hydrants and meters. Mr. John Giles, President of ECG, came before the Council and apologized for the misquote of estimated cost. He briefly explained how their estimate was costed out and explained how the shortfall had come about. He stated that the new adjusted estimate is \$38,000 and to cap at no more than \$40,000. Michael Johnson briefly went through the mapping system and showed the Council what has been done to date. Mayor Howard stated that this format saves time and does have a good value. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the change in estimated cost not to exceed \$40,000. The motion was carried unanimously.

IV) City Clerk's Report

Budget Amendments and Adjustments - The Clerk presented the Council with a worksheet of budget amendments and adjustments. She then went over every amendment. The Clerk informed the Council reminded the Council that revenues had exceeded expenditures, which

was the MEAG discretionary revenue, when the 2015 budget was approved and that these were the funds she used for the amendments. The clerk then explained that the adjustments were just interdepartmental. A motion was made by Council Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the budget amendments and adjustments presented by the Clerk. The motion was carried unanimously.

V) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

Millage Rate - Mayor Howard briefly explained to the Council the legal issues with Blakely Commons regarding taxes. He stated a settlement had been agreed upon and that the City would be refunding their portion of the taxes out of their 2015 taxes collected. He then informed the Council that the city had already paid their portion of the legal fees which was a little over \$3,000. The Mayor then informed the Council that there would be no increase in the City's millage rate, which is at 3.25. He stated that this would be a decrease in taxes collected in the amount of \$11,640 per the 5 year tax levy history. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to approve setting the millage rate at 3.25. The motion was carried unanimously.

Proclamation Helping Hands of Early County - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to approve the Helping Hands of Early County Proclamation. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tractor Bids - Street Supervisor, Charlie Wade, spoke to the Council in regards to the condition of the current tractors. Mr. Wade stated that one tractor shuts down automatically, and the other tractor changes gears during operation. Mr. Wade also informed the Council of the age of the mowers. He stated a more industrial mower is needed. Mr. Wade informed the Council of the quotes he has received from several companies: Sunsouth of Blakely quote, \$73,616.84, Ag-Pro of Bainbridge, \$62,900.00, and Flint of Colquitt, \$64,125.00. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the quote from Ag-Pro of Bainbridge in the amount of \$62,900. The motion was carried unanimously.

Playground Equipment - Mayor Howard showed a picture of the proposed layout of the new playground to the Council and Citizens. He stated a representative from GameTime came and visually looked at the site. Mayor Howard stated the cost of the project will cost \$49,950. Mayor Howard suggested to the Council to approve the purchase. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly. The motion was carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Wimberly questioned and requested brochures for the pre-paid meter program, and to coordinate a meeting to bring the community up to speed. Mayor Howard stated he is aware of the questions and concerns, and is currently planning meetings throughout the community.

Mayor Howard stated that he serves on the SGRITA board, and that fiber service is complete, and services is being tested by a few individuals. The Mayor went on to explain how the system is progressing.

VI) Public Comments

Nancy Wright commended the Council for having the mapping of the water system done. Ms. Wright then asked questions regarding the meter adjustments and amendments compared to budget and if there are checks in place to keep from going over budget. The Clerk informed her that there were checks in place but there are unplanned issues that may arise.

VII) Adjournment

A motion was by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the September 17, 2015 Special Called City Council meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Anthony Howard, Mayor