



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

October 6, 2015

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

I) Public Hearing Redbud Street Re-Zoning

The public hearing was called to order by the Mayor at 6:05. Mr. George Brown spoke stating he owned the property next to this location. He then stated that he was concerned about what will be put in these storage buildings and that inflow of individuals. He also stated that the storage sheds will surround his home. He went on to say that if this project is a good service to the community then he would not object. With no further comments from the public the public hearing was called to a close.

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 Lillie Powell 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.

III) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the Minutes from the September 1st and September 17th City Council meetings. The motion was approved unanimously by Councilman present

IV) Citizens And Delegations

Natalie Smith – Red Ribbon Week - Ms. Smith gave a brief explanation of Red Ribbon Week. She stated that the Red Ribbon Week is the last week of October. She also stated that this is a campaign against alcohol and drug abuse. She stated some ways this has been done in the past. She stated they were asking for the proclamation to show the City's support of the work being done.

Proclamation Red Ribbon Week - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the Proclamation for Red Ribbon Week. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Lillie Powell – Land Purchase For Upper Room Ministries - Pastor Lillie Powell informed the Council that she was pastor of the Upper Room Ministry which had approximately 150 members. She stated that the church was looking at property on Redbud, which is a little over 7 acres. She informed the Council that any and all structures placed or built on the property would be according to code. The Mayor stated/asked Pastor Powell if when the purchase is complete would they be coming before the Council to request conditional use of the property. She stated that they would. The Mayor then informed Pastor Powell that the Council doesn't have any say regarding their purchase of the property but that they were welcome to come before the Council when necessary. The Mayor suggested to Pastor Powell that they consult an attorney regarding the purchase of the property. The City Attorney did state that the Council could consider conditional use prior to the purchase. No action was taken at this time.

George Brown - Rezoning Redbud - Mr. Brown stated his concerns in the public hearing.

Brian Eaford – Club 229 Sunday Operation - Mr. Eaford came before the Council requesting to be allowed to operate on Sunday's for an older crowd of individuals. Mr. Eaford informed the Council that he had brown bag and on premise consumption licenses. The Mayor reminded Mr. Eaford that the alcohol ordinance stated the regulations of operations. The Mayor also questioned activities the older crowd might be done if no alcohol was involved. Mr. Eaford stated that there would be no alcohol if allowed to be open on Sunday. The City Attorney stated that he would have to review the ordinance to give a legal answer as to whether this would be allowed. The Mayor suggested, to Mr. Eaford, that he relinquish his current licenses and get an Event Center license. Councilman Hutchins questioned Mr. Eaford regarding his statement of having a police officer at his location at

all times. Mr. Eaford stated that he also has a security guard when open. The City Attorney stated that if no alcohol was present he did not see why he could not open. The Mayor again suggested that Mr. Eaford look into all the licenses that the City has to offer regarding clubs.

V) Administrative Committee Reports

Rezoning Redbud Street From R1 To Commercial To Construct Storage Buildings

The building official, Kenneth Jones, stated that the Planning Commission denied the request to rezone. He stated that about 15 members of the public had been present at the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to deny the rezoning request. Councilman Hutchins questioned if the rezoning would affect the church project. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Lane Davis – Animal Control Ordinance

(a) Chickens In City Limits

Lane Davis stated that the new Animal Control Officer was working hard to try and get town cleaned up. He stated that there are issues with chickens and that they would like further clarification, such as; are they allowed in town, what type of enclosure if allowed, how many and if roosters were allowed. The Mayor stated that they should follow the ordinance, which states fowl are not allowed. The Mayor then stated that if the Council did eventually allow fowl they would then consider more detail in the ordinance. The Mayor questioned the Council if they would like to allow fowl in the City. The Mayor stated that he has seen chickens roaming and penned up. There was no action by the Council

(b) Questions On “Proper Enclosure For Dogs”

Adam Askew, Animal Control Supervisor, asked the Council to clarify proper enclosure. He questioned the size, type, certain size per size of animal and what to be placed inside of the pen for shelter. The City Attorney stated that the ordinance was meant to be vague due to the difference in size of animals. He stated that an enclosure is proper as long as it keeps the animal inside. The Mayor stated that “proper enclosure” is left up to the Animal Control Officer. The Council was then asked if they had any problems with the term “proper enclosure” or leaving the decision up to the Animal Control Officer. The Council did not have any objections.

(c) Registration Fees Or Tag Fees For Animals

Adam Askew brought to the Council’s attention that the old ordinance stated a registration fee and the new ordinance does not. The City Attorney stated that if rabies vaccinated there should be a current tag. The City Attorney stated the ordinance regarding rabies tagged animals.

VI) City Attorney’s Report

Solar Ordinance - The City Attorney explained about the legislation incentives on solar panels. He stated that the City might see individuals in the area to sell. He stated that the law provides that if more electric is produced by the panels the City is required to buy it back and put in the grid. He stated that this ordinance puts in regulations on how they could be placed, to keep a clean look in the City, that they cannot be placed in just any zone and to be placed on the back of the house. He stated that the law also includes for the placement of solar farms (Industrial or Ag District). He informed the Council that the ordinance would have to go before the Planning Commission and come back to the Council. The Mayor informed the Council that the school system was entertaining the idea of solar panels which is when this came to the City’s attention. The Council agreed to send the ordinance on to the Planning Commission.

VII) City Clerk’s Report

The Clerk presented the Council with financial statements. She updated the Council on the City’s current projects. The Clerk informed the Council of proposals to add meters to the three wells so that they can be tied into the new monitoring system. There was discussion between the Council and Adam Askew, Water Treatment Supervisor about how this could further help with the monitoring. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the purchase of the meters and monitoring addition not to exceed \$10,000. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilman present.

VIII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Flu Shots For Employees - The Clerk informed the Council that this has been passed by the Council for at least 10 years and is therefore being asked of the Council again this year. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve flu shots for the City employees. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilman present.

Audit Bids - The Mayor stated that two proposals had been received. One proposal was from Burke, Worsham and Harrell in the amount of \$16,500, for 2015, \$17,500, for 2016 and \$18,500, for 2017. The second proposal was from Geer & Associates in the amount of \$24,000 for a three year acceptance and \$22,500 for a five year acceptance. There was discussion of hidden charges due to some past experience and should the firms be investigated further. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to table acceptance of a proposal to

investigate the possibly of additional charges. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

The Mayor brought to the Council a proposal letter, from Engineering Associates, regarding doing an analysis on running fiber optic cable to homes for the internet. He stated that this company is working with Albany/SGRITA. The Mayor stated that there had been a meeting to discuss partnering with SGRITA to provide internet service to homes and businesses in Blakely. This proposal is to give a cost estimate on this project. Councilman Middleton stated that the future of the community depends on better communication for our children. Councilman Middleton recommended moving forward. The Mayor stated that the cost in the proposal for the analysis is \$16,590. The Mayor then stated that he did not foresee Windstream investing in upgrades. He also informed the Council that if they chose to move forward after the analysis the cost of \$16,590 would be credited toward the total cost.

The Mayor informed the Council that the first meeting on the Comprehensive Plan revisions is November 7th at the County Administration Building.

There was some discussion between Councilman Hutchins and Kenneth Jones regarding clothes and other miscellaneous items along the roadside on Palmetto. Mr. Jones also stated some issues on Liberty.

The Mayor informed the Council that the health insurance renewals came in with a 16% increase. He then stated that other options were being looked into.

IX) Public Comments

Lane Davis questioned if Animal Control has the right to issue citations. The City Attorney stated that he would look into what options could be taken.

X) Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to enter into Executive Session regarding personnel and litigation. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilman present.

XI) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn the October 6th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor