



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

SEPTEMBER 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, Councilman Andy Smith and Councilwoman Margaret Wimberly were all present. Mr. Charlie Sol 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.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the August 4th and August 11th Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III) Citizens And Delegations

Tabitha Davis – Utility Bill - Ms. Davis was not present to speak regarding her utility bill.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Proposals to sand and paint light posts, handrails, and back door at City Hall

Mayor Howard informed the Council that there are 2 package proposals to sand and paint 84 lamp- post around the square, which is to finish the lighting project. He stated that the proposals also included the handrails and back door at City Hall. Proposal 1 is from SWPI in the amount of \$14,000 and Proposal 2 is from Affordable Painting in the amount of \$13,600. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to approve the Affordable Painting proposal in the amount of \$13,600. The motion was carried unanimously.

Variance for Mobile Home on the corner of Liberty Street and Johnson Drive

Building Official, Kenneth Jones, spoke in regards to the zoning requirements. Mr. Jones stated the lot was not large enough for the set back requirements. Mr. Jones also stated that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of the variance. He informed the Council that the trailer was to be moved from Rose Drive to Liberty Street and Johnson Drive. He stated that the variance is for the citizen to be allowed to have a 15ft rear yard instead of the required 30ft. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to approve the variance. The motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hutchins questioned if Howell Street had been rezoned completely.

V) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Amending Zoning Ordinance - Mayor Howard spoke in regards to the Zoning Ordinance. City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that the change was just an editorial correction. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the amended zoning ordinance. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with financial reports. She informed the Council that the City finished the month of August with \$430,490.77 in the bank, which is a slight increase. She informed the Council that the City has continued to move \$2,500 into each,

the Combined Utility Sinking Fund and the Combined Savings Accounts. The City Clerk spoke to the Council in regards to status of current Projects and presented each Council member with a copy of the report.

Councilman Hutchins spoke in regards to a utility bill in the name of Whitney Spencer, and the high usage at the residence. The City Clerk asked Councilman Hutchins if the customer would like to have a Home Energy Audit done at the location.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

Proclamation for Mr. Melzie Mosley - Mayor Howard asked the Council to consider the adoption of a proclamation regarding Mr. Mosely service to the City of Blakely and the Community. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the proclamation for Mr. Melzie Mosley. the motion was carried unanimously.

Appointment to the Recreation Board - Mayor Howard stated there are 2 positions vacant. He stated that one position belonged to the City and the other position was joint City and County. Councilman Hutchins nominated James Crozier to fill the vacant City seat. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilwoman Wimberly to approve James Crozier's nomination. The motion was carried unanimously. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and was seconded by Councilman Smith to appoint Ray Einfinger to the recreation board for the Joint Seat. The motion was carried unanimously.

Appointment to the Planning Commission - Councilman Hutchins recommended Mr. MacArthur Jones to be placed on the Planning Commission to replace Mr. Melzie Mosley. Councilman Hutchins stated that Mr. Jones was a retired Veteran, a Mason, and born and raised in Early County. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve Mr. MacArthur Jones for the Planning Commission. The motion was carried unanimously.

VIII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

The City Clerk asked to set a meeting to set the Mileage Rate to be on September 17th at 6pm.

Councilman Hutchins questioned a driveway repair on North Avenue. Mayor Howard asked Mr. Tommy Coleman for his legal opinion. He stated that the City is not liable for repairs or damages due to driveways not being a public right of way, and does not feel that any court would hold the City liable due to the right of way. Mr. Coleman stated the City should not be doing any work or placing any dirt on anyone's property.

Councilman Hutchins asked Kenneth Jones about the house on Jefferson Street in regards to the wiring. Councilman Hutchins stated the power wasn't on when he looked, but Mr. Jones stated it was. City Clerk was asked to check the billing system regarding previous status of service.

IX) Public Comments

Ms. Ann Sewell spoke in regards to tree's over the electrical wires. Mayor Howard stated the City can trim them if they are hanging in the street, and to maintain the integrity of the City's power lines. Ms. Sewell asked who would be responsible if a limb fell on a customer's vehicle. The City Attorney stated the law in regards to working on a customer's property and right a ways. Ms. Sewell requested that the City install more street lights on North Avenue along with trimming the limbs covering the existing lights around Washington Avenue and Butler Avenue.

Ms. Temeke Mclendon spoke in regards to her driveway issue and the fact that the concrete needs to be corrected. Ms. Mclendon then spoke regarding the vehicle repairs resulting from her driveway issues. the mayor informed her that it is now in the insurance companies hands and we will have to wait on that information to come back. City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, reiterated the law in regards to working on a customer's property. There was a brief discussion between Mayor Howard and Ms. Mclendon regarding the situation.

Letitia Tinson spoke in regards to a major concern about speeding where her mobile home is located on Jesse Johnson Drive and Palmetto Avenue. She asked if the City could place poles to protect her home and put something up to protect other homes in that area, etc. Mayor Howard asked Ms. Tinson what she believes would be the most effective and she asked for poles in the ground. Mayor Howard stated that the City will investigate at the area.

X) Adjournment

A motion was by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the September 1, 2015 City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Anthony Howard, Mayor