



BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
CITY HALL

March 7, 2017

6:00 P.M.

I) Public Hearing Rezoning Lucile Road AG To R-1A and Rezoning Howell Street Com To R2

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:00p.m. and turned the proceedings over to the City Attorney. The City Attorney informed the public of the two rezoning items. He then asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the zone change on Lucile Road from AG to R1-A. No one from the public spoke.

The City Attorney then asked if anyone from the public would like to speak regarding the zone change of Howell St. from Com to R2. Ms. Holley questioned the Council on what this meant. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, explained that R2 would allow mobile homes. He clarified that this location was at the intersection of Howell St. and MLK and that mobile homes had been there previously. Kenneth also stated that there really was no other use for this property and that it is already tapped for water and sewer. No other members of the public spoke. Councilman Middleton asked if the mobile homes would meet the City requirements to which Kenneth responded that they would.

The public hearing was closed at 6:10pm

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 Frank Thornton, Councilman James Crozier and Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Charles Middleton were present. Let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present. Councilman Hutchins gave the invocation. The Mayor led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the February 7th minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

IV) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

Jim Copp – E911- Recognizing Chris Cox, Jade McCorkle & Shannon Kidwell For Completion Of Basic Communications Officer Class - Jim Copp stated that E911 had been operational for two months and had received 871 calls to date. He informed the Council that the mapping had been completed and that they were in the process of working on the street signs. He also stated that the future looks bright in bringing on Randolph County shortly. He then informed the Council that he wanted to recognize the staff who had completed extensive testing and had received their certifications. He also added that they had excelled in what they had done. The staff members were Chris Cox, Shannon Kidwell and Jade McCorkle. He read a short bio on each member and the Mayor presented them with their certification.

V) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alcohol Hasan Yousef South Main Foods 2178 S Main - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the alcohol license for Hasan Yousef – South Main Foods. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, spoke about the fact that Mr. Yousef wants to change is license from beer/wine to on premise consumption. Kenneth stated that the sale of beer was not affected by the 3000ft from a Church. Kenneth also stated that Mr. Yousef would have over

50% food. There was some discussion regarding this matter and Kenneth added that Mr. Yousef already had a license he had just never used it at the current store. The City Attorney stated that he saw this item the same way as Kenneth. Kenneth then informed the Council that the Department of Public Safety had approved the application. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Planning Commission Rezoning Lucile Road AG To R-1A - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the rezoning of Lucile Road from AG to R-1A. There was discuss on the location of this property and that a ½ acre had previously been sold. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, then stated that the Planning Commission had questioned the utilities and had recommended that a septic tank be installed. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Planning Commission Rezoning Howell Street Com To R2 - A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the rezoning of Howell St from Comm to R2. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, informed the Council that even though the existing property was on MLK the driveway was off of Howell. He stated that the owner was deceased and the property was passed on to the family, who would like to subdivide into three lots. There was discussion regarding setbacks. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

VI) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Updates To Soil Erosion And Sedimentation Ordinance - The City Attorney stated that even though the City already had an Ordinance in place a few changes had been made which was why this was being brought back to the Council. He stated that with this Ordinance in place the City would be able to issue permits here instead of them having to be gotten in Atlanta. Councilman Crozier asked if the City is listed as the local issuing authority, to which Kenneth stated that we are. He then asked that if we are, does what we approve have to be reviewed by the Flint River Soil Conservation, to which Kenneth's response was "Yes." The City Attorney then had the first reading of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance.

VII) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk presented the Council with current year financial reports. She also presented the Council with financial reports from the end of 2016 to go along with final budget adjustments for 2016. She informed the Council that the budget adjustments were interdepartmental and did not change the overall bottom line totals of the budget. The Clerk informed the Council that the City's software company had finally gotten the system to accept daily reads and that it was in the process of being tested. The Clerk informed the Council that the audit would be starting shortly after April 15th. The Clerk presented the Council with a list of items that she and Councilman Hutchins had discussed for the park on Liberty St. and she asked the Council to review and let her know if they would like to change the order of what was listed or if they would like to change any of the items on the list. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to move forward with the items for the park on Liberty St. The Clerk also informed the Council that she had spoken with Charlie Wade regarding beautification around the Civic Center. There was some discussion about the stove purchase at the Civic Center and that the next time this has to be replaced a commercial type stove should be purchased.

Budget Adjustments - A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the budget adjustments presented by the Clerk. The motion carried

VIII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Crozier addressed the Council regarding a dog presently at the animal shelter that has bitten two different individuals. He asked that the Council classify this dog a vicious and gave the code which states why it would be classified this way. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton to classify this dog as a vicious dog. Councilman Hutchins questioned if the dog had been provoked. Councilman Crozier informed the Council that the dog had not been provoked and stated that the child had to have stitches and that the other person that had

gotten bit was the City's own animal control officer. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Councilman Hutchins commented that someone needed to contact DOT about the caution light at the 62 bypass and HWY 27. He stated that it is caution (yellow) on both sides and should actually be red on the 62 bypass side and yellow on the HWY 27 side, which could possibly cut down on accidents in this intersection.

Councilman Hutchins commented on grass and roots growing up over and through the sidewalk on Ft. Gaines St. He stated that someone could trip and fall. He asked if this sidewalk could be scrapped and could be looked at for some work to be done. The Mayor questioned the LMIG funds to which the Clerk stated that some funds had been received strictly for sidewalks and that she would check to see if this was one of those submitted.

Councilman Hutchins commented that a citizen on Washington St. had some land behind his house that had trees that had grown up. He stated that this citizen had questioned if the City could cut these trees down. He added that he had told the citizen he didn't know because it was private property and the City doesn't work on private property. The Mayor stated that it would be looked into to see what could possibly be done.

Councilman Hutchins questioned about any types of funds to fix City streets. The Mayor again brought up the LMIG funds that can be used for streets and sidewalks. The Mayor stated that we need to look into the roughest roads first and work our way back down.

Councilman Hutchins discussed a mobile home issue regarding Freddie Allen. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, addressed this issue. Kenneth stated that Mr. Allen presently has four projects involving mobile homes. Kenneth stated that there is one on Wyatt Jarrett that is being worked on. Kenneth stated that he has requested they get a building permit for work being done on this mobile home. He also stated that this mobile home does not have electric connected at the present time. Kenneth then stated that there are two other mobile homes one that is year model 72 and according to the City's ordinance needed to be a year 76 or newer. There was also an issue regarding the taxes. Kenneth spoke of another mobile home in Bluffton. Kenneth stated that there had been discussion regarding the age and that Mr. Allen had informed him that age no longer mattered and he had asked Mr. Allen to present paperwork to that affect. Kenneth stated that the home needs to be inspected before being brought into the City limits and this one is too far away for that. Kenneth went through the process that needs to take place to set up and that there needs to be a GA licenses installer also. Kenneth then went through the regulations. Councilman Hutchins questioned renovations on property to which Kenneth stated if it already exists there is not an issue but that would change if they chose to bring in a different one or move the existing one because everything would then need to be brought up to code. The Mayor than stated that Mr. Allen and Kenneth need to sit down and go through these issues in a civil manner.

Councilman Hutchins requested that the Sheriff explain the Department of Public Safety report that had been provided to the Council. The Sheriff went through the written report with the Council. He then asked the Council if they would look into an Ordinance where a charge would be incurred by a customer for false alarms after so many. There was discussion between the Sheriff and the Council. The City Attorney was asked if he had a model ordinance. He replied that he didn't but he would try to find one. The Sheriff then informed the Council that they had obtain a speed sign and would be placing it at the intersection of HWY 27 and the 62 bypass.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Fiber to the Home was about 90% complete. He stated that there would be testing later this month and that things are moving forward and that the pricing would be out in the next 2-3 weeks. There was discussion about the difference between Fiber to the Home and SGRITA. The Council was informed that SGRITA had moved to City Hall.

The Council and public was reminded of Peanut Proud this month.

IX) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gabe Jordan addressed the Council regarding three items that he had presented to the Council in a write up. He went back over how many times he had been before the Council regarding the items in the write up. He stated that he had not received a reply as of yet and would like to know when he could expect a reply. He question if there would be a Executive Session regarding the employee matters.

Ms. Louise Holley addressed the Council regarding some of the same problems that she has brought to them previously. She questioned if truck route signs had been put up. She asked whose job it was to put up these signs. There was discussion about putting up the signs (State puts up on State Routes and the City on City streets.) The Mayor spoke of no truck signs on the east end of Arlington but not on the west end. She spoke of big equipment for Birdsong still coming down Arlington St. and how there was a big dip in the road where previous work had been done. She questioned if the City Marshall job had been filled, to which the Mayor informed her that it had not yet been advertised. She spoke about the interpretation difference of an ordinance between her and the Sheriff. There was then some discussion between her and the Sheriff regarding their differences of interpretation. The City Attorney addressed this item and stated that Ms. Holley was correct in that a commercial truck cannot travel through a street to make a delivery but can make a delivery to someone on that street. There was then discussion between the City Attorney and Sheriff regarding the interpretation the ordinance. The City Attorney stated that he had looked into this the last time Ms. Holley had come before the Council and that he would have to agree with her interpretation.

X) Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Crozier to enter into Executive Session for the matter of real estate. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

The Council re-entered Regular Session

XI) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the March 7th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Anthony Howard, Mayor