



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

MAY 2, 2017

6:00 P.M.

I) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman James Crozier, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Charles Middleton were all present. City Attorney, Haden Hooks and City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present. Councilman Al Hutchins gave the invocation. The Mayor let the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II) APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes April 4, 2017

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the April 4th minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

The Mayor stated that Representative Gerald Greene was present to make a presentation. Representative Greene addressed the Council and public stating that as a Representative of the Early County and Blakely area he had the pleasure of serving while Mr. Guy Dunaway had been Mayor and that he was in attendance to make a presentation to Mr. Guy Dunaway's family, from the House of Representatives, for his service as Mayor. He then read a proclamation in honor of Mr. Guy Dunaway and expressed his deepest sympathy on the loss of Mr. Guy Dunaway. The Mayor then read a proclamation from the Council and citizens of Blakely in honor of Mr. Guy Dunaway for his service as Mayor in the City of Blakely. He then presented the proclamation to Mr. Dunaway's family.

Jerry or Sheila Tiner

Ms. Tiner addressed the Council regarding a fireworks business. She stated that they have been in discussion with Mr. Kenneth Jones. She stated that they had been in negotiations with Carey Logan regarding a piece of property on which they would build a 40x24 wood building with vinyl siding. She then explained the storage of left over fireworks and how they would be handled. She then stated that they were thinking of using crush-n-run for the parking lot. She also stated the seasonal time periods they would be open. Councilman Hutchins then questioned Kenneth Jones opinion was on the parking lot. Kenneth went through a portion of the Ordinance stating that it be concrete or asphalt and that any variance would need to be brought before the Council. The City Attorney asked Kenneth Jones if he was comfortable with the buildings distance to a fire hydrant due to the new regulation. Kenneth stated that he was good with that piece. He did state that at a certain point the Fire Chief would have to sign off. The City Attorney then went through a temporary business status and there was a brief discussion between the Attorney and Ms. Tiner. The Mayor then question why this was not on the agenda when originally distributed. Kenneth Jones explained the oversight. The Mayor then questioned what exactly was being asked of the Council. Ms. Tiner then stated that they needed an answer by the Council regarding a variance for crush-n-run instead of concrete or asphalt. The Mayor then gave his opinion stating that if the area was looked at, with the other businesses that have made the investment of hard surface parking lots he felt that it would not be proper of the Council to give a variance for her to do this looking at the other businesses in the area. Ms. Tiner asked how large the hard surface would have to be to

which Kenneth stated it would need to have about five parking spaces. He explained you would have to have one space for every 300ft of floor space. Councilman Middleton reiterated the expression of the Mayor. Councilman Hutchins questioned Kenneth Jones if this item had come before the Planning Commission, to which Kenneth stated that it did not have to come before them. There was a little more discussion on the number of parking spots.

IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Randy McDonald - Update Gas Spill on Bob White & Bay Street

Fire Chief, Randy McDonald, came before the Council to update them on the step that had been taken regarding the gas spill on Bob White. Randy stated that when they had first gotten on the scene there was an extreme smell of gas and that it had been discovered that an incorrect tank was being pumped out. He then stated that about 1,000 gallons had been pumped out and that it had gone down Bob White to South Bay and into storm drains. He stated that by the time it had gotten down South Bay the storm drain was clogged. He explained that it also went down Liberty and other areas on Bay St. before it stopped. He explained that he had gotten EPD involved and that Barbour had also gotten some of their people involved. He stated that they had blocked the entire area off to car and foot traffic. Randy stated how they had started a cleanup process according to EPD standards. He stated that this cleanup involved quite a bit of digging and that these steps had taken place over several days. He then informed the Council that there had been two additional incidents where strong gas smells had been found and further cleanup had taken place. He stated that Jeff Jones had gotten involved to monitor the integrity of the City infrastructure. Randy informed the Council that all time, equipment and any other items had been kept up with and that an invoice would be presented for any and all charges. Randy McDonald and Chris McClendon answered questions from the Council.

Matt & Jim – Update from E911

Jim Copp informed the Council that Stewart County had been brought on line the previous Friday. He stated that they were fixing to work on a sight survey and policies and procedures with Stewart County. He stated that Stewart County would be doing an overall review of what this project has meant to them. He stated that they anticipate more interest in the 911 service. He stated that they now have 10 certified personnel and are working on the part time. He stated that they are over 250 to 300 calls per week. He then went on to thank all those involved for their helped and cooperation to get the center up and running. The Mayor thank Jim and the staff at 911 for all they have done.

Matt Hammond – Technology Update & Demo

The Mayor stated that Matt Hammond was going to give a demo of the Fiber to the Home and that it was going to be streamed live on the City of Blakely facebook page. Matt informed the Council that the contractors were in the middle of testing. He stated that there was now a working service at City Hall. He then explained how the services will be run and hooked up. He stated that hardwired would be the fastest speed. He then went through a speed test. He explained upload and download speed and that download will be higher in a speed test. He stated that Wi-Fi signal strength will not be as high as the hardwired internet. He explained some difference in routers for Wi-Fi and that difference in Wi-Fi speed is usually the router not the internet. Matt stated that June 1st was the target date for availability. He talked about training classes. The Mayor stated how proud the Council was of the hard work and dedication that has been put into this project.

V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Amending the Emergency Management Ordinance

The City Attorney, Haden Hooks, went back over the amendment to the Ordinance regarding the cost structure for false alarms. The Mayor questioned who would enforce the Ordinance regarding the tracking of false alarms. Ms. Hooks stated that the E-911 department would track the calls and that a bill could be sent to the customer in the mail due to this being a fee. Councilman Hutchins questioned what constitutes a false alarm, to which the Ms. Hooks gave an explanation. It was then questioned if this was specifically fire alarms, to which Ms. Hooks stated that it was any false alarm. Councilman Crozier stated that the Sheriff's department keeps up with false alarms and

questioned if the Fire Department keeps up with these as well, to which Chief McDonald stated that they do keep up with false alarms as well.

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton to adopt the Ordinance amending the Emergency Management Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Regulating Truck Traffic

The City Attorney, Haden Hooks, went back over the amendment to the Ordinance regarding truck routes. She stated that trucks making deliveries must return from the same route in which they entered. The Mayor stated that there was more in the Ordinance but that Ms. Hooks had covered the major part of the amendment.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to adopt the Ordinance Regulating Truck Traffic. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

First Reading of Ordinance on Pre-Owned Manufactured Homes

The City Attorney, Haden Hooks, stated that this was the first reading for Pre-owned manufactured homes. She then read through the Ordinance. She stated that this Ordinance is the model that GMA put out after legislation stated that you cannot ban pre-owned mobile homes. She briefly discussed fees that could be assessed. Councilman Crozier questioned if GMA had recommended any fees due to the blank spaces in the Ordinance. Ms. Hooks stated that she did not know if there were recommendations and asked if the Council had any suggestions. The Mayor stated that Kenneth Jones should do a survey of surrounding Counties to keep any fees set by the City in line with others. Kenneth then discussed some fees and regulations that he had already gotten information on but that he would gather some more information before the next meeting.

Update to the Retention Schedule

The City Attorney, Haden Hooks, read an Ordinance regarding adopting a Retention Schedule. She stated that all this Ordinance does is state that the City will follow the State retention schedules and is worded so that it does not need to be amended every time the State retention schedules are updated. This constituted a first reading of the Retention Schedule Ordinance.

VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with financial reports. She then went through the cash on hand report. She informed the Council that the audit had started and that software demos were going to start the next day. She informed the Council that there were 61 customers on pre-paid. Councilman Hutchins questioned if any customers had come and asked to be placed back on a regular account. She stated that there were some customers who had issues initially regarding unpaid balances but with some of those being paid down the program was running smoother. Councilman Hutchins then questioned the park, to which the Clerk stated that she had some catalogs of items that could be used in the park and a decision just needs to be made on these items. Councilman Hutchins then commented that department heads needed to attend the meeting in case there were questions that they needed to answer.

VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Safety Report

Sheriff Price came before the Council and went through a report of the activity in their department in the previous month. Councilman Hutchins questioned if Sheriffs in other areas work to meet transports halfway. The Sheriff stated they might if they know each other but in the larger areas they usually have to transport the full way. The Mayor then asked the Sheriff to give an update on the recent budget talks. The Sheriff stated that they had made progress on the budget and had made some cuts.

COCO Lounge Incident – Case #2017-03-46931 – March 18, 2017

The Sheriff stated that investigator Price has stopped to talk to the security officer and had to use the restroom. He stated the upon investigator Price entering the establishment he noticed a subject with an odd cigarette at which time he grabbed for him and the guy snatched away. He then got

the subject to the ground and found that he had a pocket full of dope for sale. The Mayor stated that this is on the agenda due to whether this violates the Ordinance for the license holder. He then stated that violations should be reported by the Sheriff's department but that this pertained to the license holder and the alcohol Ordinance and that this violation was kind of on the fence. He then read the section of the Ordinance to which this violation pertained. He did not suggest anything at this time but that this makes the violation a matter of record at the present time and that the Council will also be watching this establishment.

The Mayor asked Jeff Jones to give an update on the gas spill due to his company's oversight. Jeff stated that his initial concerns were for the PVC pipe because it could be susceptible to degradation by the petroleum byproducts. He stated that they had asked about the types of new infrastructure that had been installed at the gas station and found out that it was galvanized pipe. He stated that they also questioned the gas valves, around the leak, and that they had been uncovered and rewrapped in a material that would keep them safe. He stated that he had spoken with Mr. Campbell from EPD and that they had dictated what cleanup process needed to be followed. He stated that he had spoken with Mr. Campbell that day and gotten some initial results but that EPD was not finished and would continue to monitor the situation and could possibly get involved further if they feel the need for more in-depth cleanup. The Mayor stated that we care about keeping up with the progress and watching out for the City's interests and infrastructure. The Mayor then asked Jeff to update the Council regarding the Waste Management agreement for the disposal of leachate. The Mayor stated that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, had reviewed the agreement and made some changes, forwarded the contractor on to Waste Management for review and that we were just waiting on their response. The Mayor then asked Jeff to update the Council on the concerns that he had addressed with Tommy Coleman. Jeff briefly went through what leachate is and stated that this is a very strong substance. He stated that he wanted to make sure that our plant could take this and that there was a way that we could stop taking it if it caused problems at our plant. He also had concerns on how it was going to be introduced into our plant. He stated that Tommy had addressed these areas. He also stated that his suggestion was that we introduced this product into our plant slowly and make sure that it will not cause problems. He stated that they have agreed and that he feels it is worth a try. The Mayor asked Jeff if he had spoken with other Cities that have taken this product. Jeff stated that it was not causing any problems in these cities. The Mayor asked Jeff to reiterate whether he would recommend we take this product knowing our plant. Jeff recommended that we give it a try if it is introduced slowly. The Mayor asked Jeff to explain some problems that we could have. He stated that it could kill organisms in the plant that must be present in the plant and that if they are killed it would shock the plant and that this would be a big problem. Councilman Thornton asked if it would be best to find an area that had a large flow and a further distance so that it had time to dilute before it reaches the plant. Councilman Hutchins questioned why it would be dumped in the area Adam had suggested. The Mayor stated that according to Councilman Thornton's recommendation it would not go in the area initially suggested. There was further discussion on the 10 days out and the fact that this is a revenue source. The Mayor stated that he felt this was a calculated risk to try. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the agreement reviewed by the City Attorney, on a trial basis. The motion carried with Councilman Thornton, Councilman Middleton and Councilman Crozier voting "YEH" and Councilman Hutchins voting "NAY"

Councilman Crozier thanked Representative Greene for everything that he does. He asked Representative Greene about the HWY 27/HWY 62 bypass. He stated that he had spoken with this representative from DOT but he would like Representative Greene to look into the situation regarding some additional lighting at this intersection.

Councilman Hutchins questioned roots in the lines and asked if they could go in the water lines. Chris McClendon stated that they are not present in the water lines.

The Mayor thanked the County Commissioners for all the cooperation we receive from them. He also thanked Representative Greene for what he does in our community and his District.

Councilman Crozier stated that Officer Weston Lee had recently been passed and to please keep his family in our thoughts and prayers. Representative Greene informed the Council that the Governor had ordered flags to be flown at half-staff on the day of Weston Lee' funeral.

Councilman Hutchins asked the Clerk to have Stephen Welch take down the shoes over the electric lines at Washington Park.

VIII)PUBLIC COMMENTS

IX) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the May 2nd City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor