



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

May 3, 2016

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

I) Call to Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

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

II) Approve Minutes

Minutes April 5, 2016 - A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes from the April 5th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

III) Citizens and Delegations

James & Sherry Hughes - James and Sherry Hughes came before the Council to ask to be allowed to keep the Teddy B pool hall open later than 12:00 because it is hard to finish pool tournaments by then. They also stated that they would like to be allowed to open on Sunday without selling alcohol strictly for practice because they have the TLC tournament here this year. The Mayor asked if they had their beer license, to which they answered yes. The City Attorney stated that the pool room regulation is totally the Council's decision but that at the present time it does state 12:00. He then stated that the Council could change the Ordinance if they chose to do so. He stated that it is not State law. The Mayor questioned if it conflicts or if it ties into the alcohol license to which the Attorney stated it would only tie into the alcohol license regarding serving of alcohol. Councilman Middleton stated that he felt if it was considered for change it should be across the board for clubs also. The Attorney stated that the Ordinance would have to be amended. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to allow the pool hall and clubs to stay open until 2:00am on Friday and Saturday night. There was then discussion regarding the Sunday portion and hours on Sunday to which the Council agreed to make the hours on Sunday opening at 1:00pm with no sale of alcohol. It was questioned about the clubs on Church St. to which it was stated that the change affects them as well because the motion would affect the alcohol license Ordinance as well as the Pool Room Ordinance. The Mayor then informed Mr. & Mrs. Hughes that an Ordinance change takes two readings.

Lanisha Laurence/Cornelius Thornton - Club 92 - Mr. Thornton addressed the Council regarding what they would have to do to get their alcohol license. He stated that they would be selling food as well. The City Attorney stated that per the Ordinance if they sold over 50% food the distance regulation on selling alcohol didn't apply. Kenneth Jones stated that it was 230 feet to the nearest business that had an on premise consumption license and that the Ordinance stated 300 feet but that the 50% or more of food sales would come into play. He also stated that this business would then again fall under the State Fire Marshall regarding occupancy. Mr. Thornton stated that they just wanted to do things the right way.

The Mayor stated that he wanted to make an addition to the agenda of the 97th Civil Affairs Battalion and that they wanted to address the Council about their recent activities in our community. They stated that there are some challenges that they felt they could help our community address. They showed a short video to the Council and public. The video told of

how they could help assist our Emergency personnel, Law Enforcement and Fire Departments. They spoke of the other areas that they will be working on assisting as well.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

V) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading & Adoption of Ordinance Regarding Streets and Curb Cuts

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the Streets and Curb Cuts Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

The City Attorney stated that Birdsong Peanuts agreed to give the City certain property in exchange for the closing of Bay St. He then stated that he had a deed and plat but that it would need to be sent to Virginia to be signed. He then stated that the Council would need to approve a Resolution to accept the property. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the Resolution of property transfer from Birdsong Peanuts according to the plat provided. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

The City Attorney stated that he also had three quick claim deeds for Marshall Day, Birdsong Peanuts and Chuck DeLoach with the City reserving easements to work on their equipment. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the three quick claim deeds presented by the City Attorney for Marshall Day, Birdsong Peanuts and Chuck DeLoach. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with Financial Reports. The Clerk informed the Council that all the field work on the audit had been completed and that at the present time there was nothing significant to report regarding the audit. The Clerk apologized to the Council for not having a project update report, due to catching up after being out on sick leave, however she touched base on some of the projects. She informed the Council that Adam had been in touch with the monitoring company to proceed in getting the well readings on the new system. She stated that Blankenship had started work on the 62 lift station and that electric would be hooked up shortly. She informed the Council that over half the meter readings were coming in from the new system but that it and that pre-paids were taking longer than anticipated due to unforeseen software changes. She informed the Council that a workaround was being set up so that a couple of employees could pilot the pre-paid meters. She informed the Council that she had received a price quote, from Jeff Jones, in the amount of \$1718.93 regarding some of the materials needed for the methane monitoring at the inert pit. She informed the Council that loan paperwork on the new Fire Department/Government Center had been signed and that the PAR had been received so everything was being forwarded to USDA for review. The Mayor then updated the Council on the fiber to the home project. He stated that some of the field work has been completed. The Mayor stated that hopefully next month we would have an update on the 12" water line. The clerk then informed the Council that there are still issues in the Southside area but that every line to the lift station was being videoed again and an issued had been found under Old Lucille Road and that direct inflow from the ditch behind Dwight Evans is coming into a manhole right across from the lift station. She also stated that issues have been found in the new sewer line work that has been done by Blankenship and that they were being made aware of the problems. Councilman Hutchins questioned what the status is on the pre-paid metering project. She briefly went back over where we are in that project. Councilman Hutchins then questions if there were funds to fill in holes in the roads and he specifically mentioned Howell St. The Mayor informed the Council that Charlie continues to get asphalt when available to fill in holes.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

Councilman Hutchins stated that a new stove, refrigerator, ice maker and flowers around the outside had been requested.

Councilman Thornton questioned the status of the playground. He stated that even though the field was not open kickball is still being played down there. Councilman Hutchins questioned if the restrooms were working to which he was told no they were not. The Mayor suggested placing port-a-johns down at the playground. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to go ahead and open the playground for use and remove the signs. It was stated that a regulation of use sign should be put up as well. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Councilman Hutchins questioned when the hour change for the clubs would be starting. There was then discussion about when the pool hall needed the hours to change. The Mayor stated that he felt another meeting could be scheduled so as to allow for the timing issue of adopting an Ordinance change.

VIII) Public Comments

Mr. Pittman addressed the Council regarding items he has gotten regarding his license for his business. He stated that he would like to open June 19th. He thanked the Gas Department for their work.

Minister Wimbush addressed the Council regarding the playground equipment and that two meetings ago it was stated that the kids could use the equipment and not be run off but that isn't what had happened but hopefully with what had taken place at this meeting has resolved that issue. He stated how peaceful it is at the park. He also spoke of the restrooms and hopefully that would be resolved soon as well, other than port-a-johns.

Mr. Jason Mullencap addressed the Council regarding a National Day of Prayer, Thursday afternoon at noon.

Mr. Francesco Coronado addressed the Council regarding the park and parks he has seen in other areas and how they look better than in Blakely. He feels that the City pays more attention to other issues than the children. He stated that the children need something to keep them off the streets. He suggested a civic center/game room.

Ms. Anna Sewell addressed the Council regarding the traffic on North Ave. and speeding. She also asked how long it takes to install a speed bump. The Mayor informed her that the speed bump is on the schedule but that there are some other things that are before it.

The Mayor thanked all the Citizens for attending and for their input.

IX) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the May 3rd City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor