



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

JUNE 6, 2017

6:00 P.M.

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

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

The Mayor recognized Representative Gerald Greene and Judge Tonya Holley. Representative Greene presented Judge Holley with a proclamation on her retirement. Representative Greene read the proclamation passed by the House of Representatives. Judge Holley then spoke of how much helpful Representative Greene had been to her through her time as Probate Judge. She then expressed her sincerely thanks for being honored.

Mayor Howard presented Jerome Ealey, an Electric Department employee, with a certificate of completion for Apprentice Lineman from Electric Cities of Georgia.

II) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes of the May 2nd City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

Update on Old Feed Mill on N. Church St. – Court Order Case

The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, informed the Council that by the next meeting the 60 days ordered by the court for cleanup of the Old Feed Mill on N. Church St., would expire. He stated that he wanted to make sure the Council was aware of this because he feels that the City will have to perform the cleanup because the owner, Ronnie Still, has not done anything to the property to date. He asked permission from the Council to start demolition on June 26 if the property owner has not tried to do so. Councilman Hutchins asked if the building had to be tested for asbestos. Kenneth stated that any structure being demolished had to be tested. Councilman Hutchins questioned if this process was the same for grain bins. Kenneth stated that they fell under a different category. Councilman Middleton questioned if Ronnie Still was still the owner because he had heard that the property had been sold to Paul Hill. Kenneth stated that he had questioned this and had been informed that no paperwork had been done for sale of the property so currently Ronnie Still was still the owner of record.

Demolition of Old Recreation Department Building on HWY 27 North

The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that he had spoken with the Recreation Department Director regarding the Old Recreation Department Building. He stated that he

had been informed that there were still some items in storage in this building. He then informed the Council that there may be mold in the building. The Council agreed that the process of demolition could be started. Councilman Hutchins questioned to state of the building. Councilman Crozier stated that the building was in really bad shape.

Celester Arnold – Donating Property to the City on Liberty St

Ms. Arnold addressed the Council regarding a piece of property on Liberty St. that is in need of clean up and had a court case pending, however she stated that the family would like to donate the piece of property to the City. She stated that her and her sister had already discussed the donation. She stated that she had spoken with the City Clerk and City Attorney regarding the fact that if the City Council accepted the piece of property it would no longer have to go into court. She then asked the Council if they were willing to accept the property. There was discussion between the City Attorney and Ms. Arnold regarding the process that she would have to take to get it deeded over, such as, identifying the legal owners, getting them to sign off and checking for any liens on the property, and she stated that they would get that process completed. The City Attorney then informed the Council that they would just have to make a motion to accept the property. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to accept the property on Liberty St. once everything had been cleared. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Matt Hammond-Update on Fiber start up

Matt Hammond addressed the Council and informed them that Fiber to the Home had been brought on line the previous Thursday. He stated that they had 15 customers signed up. He then went through the breakdown of these customers according to class. He informed the Council of the breakdown of these 15 customers (Res. Comm.) and the services that they took. He informed the Council of the splicing trailers and the certified City employees to work on the fiber. He stated that they were moving Freddie Summerset from the Water/Sewer Dept to Fiber. The Mayor thanked Matt and those involved for all their hard work and dedication to getting the Fiber up and going as smoothly as it has.

V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Second Reading Of Ordinance Or Pre-Owned Manufactured Homes

The City Attorney briefly went back over the Pre-owned manufactured homes. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the Pre-Owned Manufactured Homes Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Second Reading of Retention Schedule

The City Attorney briefly went back over the retention schedule Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Retention Schedule Ordinance

First Reading of the General Election Ordinance

The City Attorney read the General Election Ordinance which states when the Election is, when qualifying is to take place, which Councilman position are up for Election, qualifying fees, etc... Let the record show that this constituted the First Reading of the General Election Ordinance.

Resolution Adopting the Early County Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan

The City Attorney stated that this is a pre-hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for Federal/State funds in cases of disaster. He stated that he believes that a plan has been worked out with the County and that there is a joint agreement about the plan and that this Resolution approves that. He stated that without this the City would be on their own. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Resolution adopting the Early County Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk presented the Council with financial reports. She then informed the Council that she had been in touch with the auditor and that he so no problems in getting the audit completed on time.

Software proposals

She informed the Council of the steps that had been taken before presenting this information to the Council. She stated that they had formed a committee, in house, and had demos on 4 different software packages, 2 were just billing programs (SEDC and NISC) and 2 were full service programs (Accella and Caselle). She informed the Council that the list had been narrowed to two packages, 1 just billing and 1 full service and had then had full day demos of each software. The Clerk informed the Council of the price quotes (SEDC 60,100 set up and \$35,305 per year) (Caselle-\$123,814 set up and 22,008 per year in house and \$82,039 set up and \$17,796 per year web based) and (Accela-\$150,070 set up and \$7,525 per year in house and \$114,326 set up and \$9,406 per year web based) (NISC- no quote due to needing a NDA before providing a quote and the City Attorney advised against it.) The Clerk then informed the Council that the in house committee's recommendation was Caselle because there were more functions that they felt could help streamline workflow. The Clerk and Billing clerk then informed the Council that they had checked seven references, good and bad, and that they could not find a single one that had anything really bad to say about the Caselle Software. As a matter of fact there were some that had left them that were looking at going back. The only issue seemed to be the time difference between Georgia and Utah. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the quote from Caselle Software in the amount of \$123,814. There was a question and answer discussion between the Council and the Clerk and Billing Clerk. Matt Hammond talked briefly about the server, which is not included in the cost of the software. He stated that they would be looking at the specs to see if our current servers would work or if we would have to purchase new. He then informed the Council that if we had to purchase new it would probably run around \$17,000. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to check into the drop in TAVT income. He then asked the Clerk to give an update on the changes that will be made to City Hall in order to rearrange the SGRITA/FTTH employees. The Clerk informed the Council that an office was being created where the waiting area is right inside the front door, that sliding windows would be put on both sides of Aymee's office so that she could see through to the front lobby and to utility billing and that there would be glass put up in front of the customer service employees in the utility billing area. She informed the Council that this work should be starting at the end of June.

VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Mayor updated the Council on the hospital issue. He stated that two parties are interested not only in our hospital but the other hospital that is tied to it from Pioneer. He

stated that we should see some resolution by the end of June as to who will be running the hospital. He stated that the grinder behind the hospital has been installed and running. He stated that we took our first delivery of leachate and that it would be monitored to make sure that we stay in compliance. He stated that the ad had started running for the City Marshal position.

The Sheriff provided copies of his report and was asked if there were any questions about his report and the Council did not have any.

Councilman Hutchins stated that before anything else was done a fence was going to be put around the park area on Liberty St. He asked the Clerk to find out about the cost of the fence. He then spoke of the other items that we are going to do in this area. He then asked about the area where the swimming pool had been on Howell St. The Mayor suggested that we look at doing something with the building instead of just tearing it down.

Councilman Hutchins asked Kenneth Jones, The Building Official, about cleaning up behind the school on Howell St., to which Kenneth stated that he had sent a letter but that he would check with the school Superintendent again.

Councilman Crozier questioned the LMIG list and requested it be put up on the City facebook page or on the website. He also invited everyone out to the firework show on June 29th at 9:15 at the Recreation Department field.

VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

A citizen questioned if the City could do something about people leaving food out for animals at the Friendship Church. She was informed that this building is outside City limits but that the Sheriff might be able to do something about this issue. She also asked about cleaning up trees on Washington Ave. The Mayor stated that due to the fact that they are not near power lines the City cannot do anything about these trees. She then questioned what about the owners of the property. The Mayor stated that if she comes by to see him he would help with who owns the properties.

A citizen addressed the Council and thanked them for putting trash cans out at Howell Park. He then spoke about how this park needs to be completed. He spoke about an adult kickball league and about an adult softball league again. He spoke about how the City needs to get these things started again. He spoke about the rubbish not being picked up any longer and asked if a pickup, especially for the elderly, could be arranged like a certain day this could be done like they do in other areas and spoke of a charge for this. He also spoke about upgrades to the Civic Center and the possibility of a new building to house more people.

Anthony Lingo addressed the Council about an area/gym that could be used for the kids. He spoke of having to take kids to Ft. Gaines for gym access. He stated that he can't afford a million dollar insurance policy to use the school gym. He also asked if the hours at the Civic Center could be extended. Councilman Hutchins suggested that he go and get on the school board agenda to discuss the gym. Councilman Crozier stated that he would be willing to help look into a grant to fix up gym if possible.

IX) EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Middleton to enter into Executive Session on personnel matters. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Entered back in Regular Session – not further business

X) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the June 6, 2017 City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor