



**Blakely City Council  
Minutes**

**July 5, 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 Frank Thornton and Councilman James Crozier were present. Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Charles Middleton were not present. Pastor Alexander gave the invocation. The Mayor led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Let the record show that the City Attorney, Kelly Rollerson and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

**II) Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Minutes from the June 7th City Council meeting. The motion carried with Councilman Crozier, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

**III) Citizens And Delegations**

**Ivan Minks- Update On Fire Department Building**

Ivan Minks informed the Council that the City had received the AD-622 letter from the Department of Agriculture. He stated that this letter is to inform the City that the project is eligible for funding in the year 2016, not that the City would receive the funds, but that the monies would be set aside. He stated that a public Hearing would need to be held next and that he would get with the Clerk to get it arranged by August. He stated that the City would then have to do a financial feasibility report. He stated that once the public hearing was complete then they would coordinate with the Department of Agriculture to come down and do an application docket. He stated that once this was done they would move forward with completion of the project.

**IV) Administrative Committee Reports**

**Alcohol License – Adonnis Pittman – 5 Georgia Pine**

The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, spoke to the Council stating that Mr. Pittman has completed all the documents and paid the necessary fees. He then stated that the Sheriff had approved the application. The Mayor then questioned if the distance requirements had been met to which Mr. Jones stated that they did not. Councilman Crozier stated that in the current form this didn't meet the distance requirements but at last month's meeting the 50% food issue had been addressed. He stated that the box on the application was checked incorrectly. Mr. Jones then went over the different distances between this location and other locations. Mr. Jones stated that if he met the 50% food requirement the distance issue would not be an issue. The Mayor then questioned the background check and asked Mr. Pittman to explain further. Mr. Pittman stated that he was working in Atlanta doing lawn service and had been stopped by police and that another employee had left marijuana in the truck.

He stated that he had cleared up the issue. He stated that he received a speeding ticket in town and that he was then informed that there was a warrant for failure to appear. He showed documents regarding this issue to the City Attorney. There was then discussion as to whether the issue was resolved to which it was concluded that it wasn't. The Mayor then stated that he felt that an alcohol license could not be issued at the present time do to this outstanding issue and until the issue is cleared. There was some discussion between the Mayor and the Sheriff regarding this issue. Mr. Pittman stated that the issue was cleared with monies paid and that if he appeared in Court next month and paid an additional \$100.00 the item would be completely settled. There was then some discussion regarding the food. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to table this license until the application was filled out correctly. Councilman Thornton questioned when he first started this process to which Mr. Pittman responded that he started this in January. Councilman Thornton then stated that he thought the Council was going to grandfather him in regarding the distance portion of the Ordinance due to him starting the process before the distance portion was added. Councilman Crozier then stated that he had only appeared before the Council and had not actually turned in his application. The Mayor then stated that he would like to see where the outstanding legal issue was cleared up. The motion carried with Councilman Crozier, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

**Alcohol License – Jerome Johnson – 71 Georgia Pine**

The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that all the distance requirements had been met. He informed the Council that Mr. Johnson's application is for beer and distilled spirits. He then stated that the Sheriff had approved the application and all fees had been paid. He informed the Council that due to the food and size issue of the building, the Fire Marshall would have to be involved and may look at the occupancy load of the building. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the alcohol license for beer and distilled spirits for Mr. Jerome Johnson. The motion carried by Councilman Crozier, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

**Alcohol License – Lanisha Laurence – 1091 N Church St**

The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that all the distance requirements are met due to Ms. Laurence having food service. He stated that the Health Department had been contacted, the Sheriff had approved the application and if over 100 people occupancy the Fire Marshall would have to be involved. He stated that her application was for beer and wine. A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to table this item until the August meeting. The motion carried with Councilman Thornton, Councilman Crozier and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

**V) City Attorney's Report**

**Second Reading and Adoption Changing Hours Of Operation For On Premises Consumption** - A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the Ordinance changing the hours of operations for on premises consumption.

**Second Reading and Adoption Amending The Alcohol License Regarding The Selling Of Alcohol To Minors** - The City Attorney explained the items that had been changed in the law which brought upon the change in this Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to adopt the Ordinance amending the alcohol license regarding the sale

of alcohol to minors. The motion carried with Councilman Thornton, Councilman Crozier and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

**Bay Street Closing – Ordinance amendment and Resolutions**

The City Attorney explained that this Ordinance was amending the previous Ordinance to incorporate a more detailed description of the area to be closed. Let the record show that this constituted a first reading of the Ordinance amending Ordinance 2016-005 regarding the closing and abandoning a portion of Bay St.

The Mayor then questioned the City Attorney if the Council should wait on approving the Resolution approving the Quit Claim Deed. The Mayor stated and the City Attorney agreed that the Council should wait to approve items (B) and (C) until the seconded reading of the Ordinance.

**Resolution Imposing a Moratorium on Cell Towers**

The Mayor explained that this Resolution was due to inquire to build cell phone towers in downtown Blakely and as it stands now the Council wants to make sure that the proper regulations are in place before any consideration is given on this issue. He stated that it would give 120 days to study the regulations regarding this issue. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the Resolution Imposing a Moratorium on Cell Towers. The motion carried with Councilman Crozier, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

**VI) City Clerk's Report**

The City Clerk presented the Council with financial reports. She informed the Council that the audit report was submitted by June 30th and that she would be contacting the auditors regarding presenting the audit at the next Council meeting. She gave the Council a brief update on outstanding projects.

**VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council**

The Mayor informed the Council that everything was settled regarding the new 2018 SPLOST allocation and the Council was presented a copy. He stated that the amount was up to 10 million. He stated that Telecom infrastructure was added in the verbiage. The Mayor stated that even if the other cities didn't agree it would still go forward due to the City and County making up more than 50%. He stated that the City's allocation was 3 million instead of the previous 2.7 million. Councilman Crozier questioned if all the cities were present to which the Mayor responded all except Damascus. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the execution of the intergovernmental agreement regarding the 2018 SPLOST. The motion carried with Councilman Crozier, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

The mayor informed the Council that Randolph County and Stewart County had joined E-911. He then asked Jim Copp to give the Council a brief update on the building. Jim informed the Council of the plumbing issues, replacing the HVAC due to the heat the equipment would put off. He stated that the reset of the renovations are progressing well and that the equipment is in and ready to be delivered when the building is ready.

Councilman Crozier stated that he had received a call from the Department of Juvenile Justice, in Terrell County, that they would be hiring new correctional officers soon.

There was discussion regarding truck traffic on Arlington St. The Sheriff stated that it had never gotten straightened out regarding truck traffic on Arlington. There was discussion regarding the current sign being moved back to allow the trucks to enter into the Days Inn. The Sheriff stated that the sign had not been moved. Councilman Crozier stated that the sign couldn't be moved due to it not being legal. The Sheriff stated that you either had to allow truck traffic on the entire road or not allow truck traffic at all. The Mayor stated that we really need to try to get this resolved. A citizen stated that the road was not up to code to allow the heavy trucks and equipment to Birdsong. She stated that she had chased a truck down to see where it went. The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, spoke to the Council regarding the sign being moved and that it had been discussed that since Days Inn didn't have an entrance off the bypass that if the sign was moved it would be OK and that trucks could enter into Days Inn but could not go any further. There was further discussion which concluded that the sign was moved. The Mayor then stated that the City would have to clear up with prosecutor and Ordinance if the offense would stand up in court if any citation was issued. He stated the City would follow up on this matter.

#### **VIII) Public Comments**

#### **IX) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the July 5th City Council meeting. The motion carried with Councilman Crozier, Councilman Thornton and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

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Anthony Howard, Mayor