



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

AUGUST 1, 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 led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance

II) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the minutes from the July 6th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

III) Citizens And Delegations

Kirk Chambers – Resolution USDA Fire Department Funding

Kirk Chambers, with USDA, presented the Council with a Resolution for the funding for the Fire Department/Government Service building. Kirk informed the Council that the Resolution was to give the Mayor and Clerk the authority to sign on the necessary promissory note and financing. He stated that during the construction period the City was to obtain interim financing, in accordance with State Law and USDA policies. He then stated that at the end of construction USDA would then pay off the bank who holds the interim financing. The Mayor reiterated for the Council and public that the City will have interim financing with a lending institution during the construction and once construction is complete USDA will then pay off that loan and set up a monthly amortizing loan for a 30yr period. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the USDA Resolution presented by Kirk Chambers. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Patricia Jones - Blakely Housing Authority – Pole Attachment

Ms. Patricia Jones came before the Council to ask if there was an agreement regarding pole attachment. The Mayor referred to the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman because he has been privy to this whole matter. Mr. Coleman stated that back when some cameras had been installed on City poles and using City electric. He stated that in discussion with the Mayor they had determined that the City would not try to recoup the prior charges but would in turn start charging from this point forward. Ms. Jones stated that they did not have any problem with this agreement going forward. There was a short discussion regarding how this would progress and Mr. Coleman gave a brief explanation to the Council about why and how this had come about (cameras/video equipment installed on City poles and hooked into City electric.) It was stated that the pole attachment would now start with 2017 and every year thereafter and would only be billed one year at a time. There was discussion about The Housing Authorities new equipment. The Mayor stated that we just need to have the pole attachment agreement signed. There was then discussion, by Mr. Coleman, regarding the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) payment. He explained how the payment came into effect and what this payment was to pay for (roads, infrastructure etc...) Mr. Coleman spoke of a year that was missing and there was a brief discussion regarding this issue. Mr. Coleman asked that the pole attachment agreement be ready for the next Council meeting.

Lillie Powell – Redbud Street Site Plans

Ms. Lillie Powell spoke to the Council regarding where her project was at this point. She stated that a problem has been run into. She stated that she had gotten Mr. Holman to draw up a site plan but that he drew this plan after getting with the Building Official, Kenneth Jones, and that this is the only plan that he would approve. Ms. Powell stated that this plan would not work because it did not promote growth. She stated that she had not gone back to Mr. Jones or Mr. Holman because she felt that it was best to come back before the Council. She stated that the plan that had been drawn had left no for access and that she had planned to eventually move to this location but would not be able to with the plans that had been drawn out. She presented another drawing that she had done which showed a placement of the buildings that would open up for more room. She stated that there was another accessory building that she showed not being up front and would still be in accordance with code/ordinance. She stated that she felt she was being pressured into something that was not going to be what was wanted. She then stated that parking had been shown as 1 parking space per every four seat in the sanctuary and that she had given Mr. Holman a number of 100 people which would have given 25 parking spots. She stated that it had been mentioned about gravel but Mr. Jones stated that gravel would be out of the question. She really doesn't know what to do at this point. She stated that she could not afford to go back and forth regarding the drawing. The Mayor then asked about the plan that she did and did not want so that he was sure which way she wanted to proceed. She provided an aerial photo which better represented what she was asking to do. The Mayor asked Mr. Jones to address this matter. Mr. Jones went over his discussion with Mr. Holman and stated that according to the ordinance it would require concrete or asphalt. The Mayor questioned the number of parking spaces according to the drawing Ms. Powell had presented. Mr. Jones stated that it would depend on the use of the buildings for the parking spaces. There was more discussion between the Council and Mr. Jones. It was asked if parishioners were there for Sunday school then wouldn't they be the same for Church and additional spaces would not be needed. There was more discussion with Ms. Powell. The Mayor stated that if all were in agreement then the number of parking spaces would be OK with Ms. Powell's drawing. The next issue was the position of the buildings to which the Mayor stated that they were OK with how she drew it out. She asked if it would be OK if after they placed the buildings they could go ahead and move in and then work on the parking lot. She stated that they would get it done but again asked for permission to go ahead and move in. The Mayor stated that if the Council was in agreement to go with the lower number of parking spaces, position of the buildings the way she wants she go ahead and do concrete or asphalt on ½ the parking with the agreement that a time period be placed on when she would do the balance of the parking. She stated that this would be a good compromise and the Council agreed.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Kenneth Jones – Beth Wasdin Property - The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, stated that Ms. Wasdin has done some work to the mobile home that had burned on S. Central Ave. and that the Council had agreed to give her 6 months and that was up in June. He asked if they Council was willing to give her some more time (a couple more months) to finish getting the mobile home in shape. The Council agreed to give Ms. Wasdin two more months to complete repairs.

V) City Attorney's Report

Resolution Approving Joint Comprehensive Plan - The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that this Resolution was to approve the amended Joint Comprehensive Plan with the County. He stated that the County had held hearings the amendments. He recommended that the Council approve this Resolution. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the Resolution approving the amended Joint Comprehensive Plan. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

VI) City Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented the Council with monthly financial reports. She informed the Council that she had provided a cost estimate on what had been spend, will be spent in 2017 and what will be added to the budget for 2018 for the park on Liberty St. She also informed the Council that she had provided them with budget adjustments for the first 6 months of this year. She stated that these were just interdepartmental adjustments and asked that the Council review and if found acceptable to approve

the budget adjustments presented. She then informed the Council that the preliminary stages of the software conversion had started and that she and the staff were in the process of answer questionnaires. She also informed the Council that it had been determined that a new server would not need to be purchased just a Microsoft Sequel operating system software. The Mayor questioned the cost savings for not having to buy a new server. The Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that it would be a savings of around \$17,000. There was a short discussion about the items for the park on Liberty St.

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

VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Crozier stated that Mr. Singletary was cleaning out the old Blakely peanut building and found 1957 & 1958 audit reports and would like to donate them to the museum in memory of his father.

The Mayor stated that the Council had a written report on fiber to the home with 52 customers and customers coming in daily.

Councilman Hutchins questioned the ice maker at the Civic Center. The Clerk stated that the ice maker was here but not presently installed. Councilman Hutchins questioned when it would be installed. The Clerk stated that she would get with Lane for a time frame.

Jim Copp addressed the Council that they were running with their new CAD and that in conjunction have to do a complete new renovation in their data. He stated that they should be able to roll out every accessory within this week. He also stated that they have some more employees going to training. They are on track to take on 400 calls per week. He spoke of the mapping with the additional Counties. Councilman Hutchins questioned the texting option and if it would be back on line. Mr. Copp stated that they were getting that back on line, hopefully by the end of the week.

VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Holley stated that since the truck route ordinance had been reworded the problem has become worse. She spoke of a building that was torn down, by Birdsong, being hauled out by way of Arlington St. She stated that peanut trailers, cement trucks were still coming down this road. The Mayor stated that the Council is still working on reconciling the issue.

IX) EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton to enter into Executive Session regarding real estate. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

X) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the August 1st City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor