



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

OCTOBER 3, 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. Reverend James Martin 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 September 5, 2017 minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

III) Citizens And Delegations

Lee Chapman – Truck Route / No Trucks Allowed On Residential Streets. Mr. Chapman was not present. Mayor Howard gave a map regarding the Birdsong truck route to the City Attorney as the Birdsong drying yard is land locked according to our current truck route. There was some discussion about other possible routes.

George White – White’s Garage. Building Official, Kenneth Jones, spoke with Mr. White’s daughter and she is going to meet with him to go over the Ordinance to meet the requirements. She informed Kenneth that they had ordered the slats for the fence. Councilman Crozier made a motion to allow a temporary business license permit until December 31st giving them time to meet the ordinance requirements. If requirements were not met by then the license would not be renewed. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilmen Thornton, Crozier and Middleton voting “Aye” and Councilman Hutchins abstained from voting.

Tabitha Davis – Light Bill – was not present

June Merritt approached the Council concerning a request from the County Commissioners to look into consolidation of the City and County. The County passed a motion to examine the feasibility of consolidation. The County would not proceed unless the City agreed. There was no motion from the Council.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Will Geer – will come next month

Adam Askew, purchase of chlorinators, was tabled until the next meeting.

V) City Attorney's Report

There was a first reading of Ordinance amending the GMEBS retirement plan. The City Attorney, Mr. Coleman, stated that the document is basic and it is to bring employees from Public Safety that transferred to E911 and into the City's plan issuing credit for their years at Public Safety. Mayor Howard stated that he had questions and will pass them on to the attorney.

There was a first reading of Ad Valorem Tax ordinance setting the millage rate at 4.25.

The City Attorney, Mr. Coleman updated the Council on the TAVT tax issue. Mr. Coleman stated that there appears to have been a miscalculation and the City has been overpaid. Mr. Coleman stated that Mayor Howard wants this situation to be examined by GMA. It's a complex issue and more documents have been requested. Consultants from GMA will come here if the council approves. Council agreed to move forward with a examination by GMA.

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with financial reports. The City Clerk updated the Council with the progress on the software conversion. The City Clerk presented the Council with some budget adjustments. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the budget adjustments as presented by the City Clerk. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present. The City Clerk also updated the Council on work at the playground on Plant Street.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Sheriff Price provided an activity report to the Council.

Aymee Weaver addressed the Council regarding Fiber to the Home. She informed the Council that FTTH had a current total of 84 customers and added 7 new customers in September. She stated that the total September sales were \$7,400. They currently have 3 delinquent customers. She informed the Council that FTTH is currently waiving set up fees for all businesses and the housing projects.

Councilman Hutchins questioned the truck route and gas truck coming down Howell. Mayor Howard stated that they could access such as Birdsong.

Mayor talked about Kenneth Jones mobile home. He stated that the City Attorney had gathered information and is reviewing and that he will get back with Mayor next week.

VIII) Public Comments

Charlie Sol enlightened the Council regarding the truck route on Maple Street. He stated that there was no way a semi could make that turn coming off Maple. He then suggested talking to a truck driver about proposed routes.

Customer spoke about gas tanker trucks on Howell Street and how dangerous it was for trucks to be in that area because of the housing projects and children.

Ms. Holley spoke about the truck route and Ordinance. She gave documentation of what has gone up and down Arlington. She went through all her documentation to this point.

She then gave some more of her opinions. Councilman Hutchins discussed how he understood her feelings and that it started when the 27 by-pass was installed.

Lee Chapman stated that looking at the map it is still going to force trucks to come around Court Square. He questioned if there had ever been an accident on Arlington. He stated that there is not an easy answer to this situation. He spoke about other areas that bring in peanuts and that their GPS system gives them that direction. Mayor stated that there is not a simple answer, but he doesn't think Council will just give up and he encouraged everyone to work together to get something worked out.

IX) Adjournment

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

Anthony Howard, Mayor